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The Voice of the University of Toronto at Mississauga

# THE MEDIUM

VOLUME 29 ISSUE 20

February 24, 2003

## ECSU's VP Admin accused of 'not fulfilling his role'

**Gorski feels excluded and mistreated by ECSU members**

By MICHELLE RABBA

Erindale College Student Union (ECSU) has recently dealt with problems regarding its Vice-President of Administration, Dawid Gorski. Doubts have been cast on his abilities as VP, his fulfillment of the role to date, and problems regarding staff and mistreatment.

The role of VP includes several tasks, such as ensuring that the office runs efficiently, handling administrative tasks,

managing the Info-booth and its employees, and organizing other events on campus. According to Adil Mirza, ECSU President, Gorski has not fulfilled his duties as VP of Administration since the beginning of the school year. Unfulfilled responsibilities include incompleting his office hours, an inability to fulfill tasks in adherence to deadline, struggling with his Info-booth responsibilities, and dealing with employees properly. "I think there's a lot of room for improvement in the work that he does," said Mirza. Sean O'Connell, ECSU VP of Finance, also shares the same sentiments and feels that Gorski is "not taking responsibility and fulfilling his role."

These claims, however, are defended by Gorski, "I feel that the office has been

running smoothly and that within my portfolio, I have done my job," he said.

Although both Mirza and O'Connell contend that Gorski does not fulfill his office hours, which is a pertinent responsibility in ECSU, Gorski maintains that he does.

"Sometimes, as a managerial figure, I don't sign in when I come in. But, on average, I'm there every single day in the morning," he said. Gorski's office hours, which are posted outside the ECSU door, are often scheduled to take place in the afternoon, however. Mirza also questions his completion of office hours, of which Gorski has been subject to pay cuts due to incompleting. "I find that very hard to believe, because all mornings, the first thing I do is ask Linda [ECSU's office

coordinator] who has been in the office so far that day. Also, I'm here all the time, and it's a very rare thing when I see him complete his office hours at the times they're supposed to be completed," Mirza said.

Also, several of Gorski's campaign promises included things such as restructuring the pub and improving events, all of which have been left incomplete. Gorski claims that "when I was running for ECSU, I definitely thought my ambitions were pretty high, but when I got into office, there were so many things to keep on top of on a daily basis that I didn't have the time."

Gorski also contends that a major factor that has hindered his role is the ill-treat-

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## Baby blue event a scam

**Imitation group hired for SAC event**

By JULIE TYIOS

Students who attended the free Baby Blue Soundcrew event at the Blind Duck Pub on Friday, February 7th, were misled by the SAC 101 Party Planners through false advertising and an imitation group acting as Baby Blue Soundcrew. Legal measures are currently being taken against the President of the Students' Administrative Council (SAC), Rocco Kusi-Achampong, for falsely promoting an imitation group as the real Baby Blue Soundcrew prior to and throughout the event.

K. Crawford, Baby Blue Soundcrew's manager, assures that no contact was made with the group regarding a show before it was promoted, and that no member of Baby Blue was ever scheduled to appear and that they are not under contract to do an event at any University of Toronto campus. "We have done a show at U of T once or twice before," he noted, "but it was booked through the proper channels. We were scheduled to appear and people came to see us."

He also stated that the false promotions were "detrimental to Baby Blue's image. People showed up at the party expecting to see Baby Blue Soundcrew and they were given a bunch of imitators. If even one person is disappointed, it upsets us greatly. We always give it our all when we perform and this is what has accounted for our success in the past few years. Our credibility is now shot through no fault of our own. We had no idea this was happening at all, until after the fact."

The SAC 101 Planning Committee, the group responsible for organizing such events, is composed of a group of students who hold accountability to both Kusi-Achampong and SAC VP of Operations John Lea. "Normally, SAC committees require a certain number of students to make quorum in order to hold a meeting, and also, are required to submit minutes of meeting to the Board of Directors whenever they wish to spend money," said Alexandra Artful-Dodger, External Affairs Commissioner for SAC. "The SAC101 committee had not done this, and so, I'm sorry to say that as Board members, we haven't really had any input into who was hired to perform at this party, or what the budgets for it were."

Also, although Lea was advertised as the host for the event, he denies involvement. "I had not consented to host this party. That was arranged by Rocco Kusi-Achampong and I declined

Legal action continued on page 4

## My grandma can lift more than that!



UTM's Athletics Department hosted an Olympic Weightlifting Competition on Saturday, February 8th. A full attendance of spectators watched over 50 competitors contend for gold, silver and bronze medals and to classify for Ontario and World Championship titles. photo/Mehraan Pavri

## SAC by-laws drastically revamped

By JULIE TYIOS

The Students' Administrative Council (SAC) recently held a number of meetings to pass new by-laws. The change in by-laws focused on the structure of the council's executive members, and brought about a number of other drastic changes. The laws previously maintained that when a President was elected, he brought with him two Vice-Presidents (VP Education and VP Operations).

The tri-president positions formed the Senior Executives, all full-time positions. Seven Commissioner positions (External,

Clubs, Promotions, Equity, UTSC, UTM and University Affairs) would then be elected at the first Board of Directors meeting as Junior Executives, who would work part time and receive half the salary of a Senior Executive.

The new by-laws will change this structural format beginning next term. The changes will now allow five positions to encompass all three campuses—President, Vice President of Operations, Vice President of University Affairs, Vice President of Equity and Vice President of Student Life.

There will also be two positions devoted exclusively to one campus—Vice President UTSC and

Vice President UTM, which will be a full-time position with such a salary. It is hoped that by cutting back on the number of positions otherwise, SAC will save approximately \$20,000 per year in wages. "I like the fact that proxies are now limited," stated VP of Operations, John Lea. Previously, proxies were unlimited in meetings, whereas, now proxied votes are limited to five in a meeting. "Changing the entire executive structure and making them full-time positions is also a radical change as well."

The most important aspect of

SAC continued on page 2

### What's Inside

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#### QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"The Students of U of T deserve better than to be lied to and manipulated by an individual that cannot deliver what he promises"

-K. Crawford, Baby Blue's Manager on SAC Prez Rocco Kusi-Achampong

Karaoke's Coming Up

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## SAC executive structure undergoes change

*continued from front*

these changes, however, is that all of the executive positions will not be elected during council meetings, but by the student body through general elections. Also, students will not have to run on a slate of seven candidates, but may run as an independent on a slate that is non-binding.

**"I like the fact that proxies are now limited"**  
— John Lea.

Any group is able to run as a full or partial ticket, making it possible for students to have more choice while voting, now able to pick some positions from one ticket and a few from another.

These by-laws were first passed at the SAC Executive's meeting held on January 21 but were almost considered irrelevant afterwards due to the nature of the meeting. Voting was deadlocked, however, a proxied vote to Lea from UTSC Commissioner Parminder Singh tipped the balance in Lea's favour. Both the Chair and President Rocco Kusi-Achampong were against passing them due to the fact that they might affect his chances of re-election into office.

Several minutes into the meeting, however, Singh proxied his vote orally to University Affairs Commissioner Mohammed Hashim, which inevitably meant the by-laws would pass.

Kusi-Achampong declared the proxied vote ineligible for consid-

eration, thereby threatening the eligibility of the by-laws. He stormed out with his VPs, stating quorum would not exist without him. The meeting did continue on, however, with Hashim acting as chair. "There are a number of good things," he stated [*Medium*, Vol 29, Issue 17]. "Such as the advent of a sub-development committee and having college presidents and faculty sit in on the boards with right of speech. The decision to pass the by-laws was almost unanimous."

The minutes of the meeting did make it to the SAC general meeting, and the by-laws were considered legitimate.

**"This will serve to bring SAC closer to the various student communities at U of T"**

— Alexandra Artful-Dodger.

Other changes in the by-laws include the seats on the SAC Board will also be allotted to leaders of college and faculty councils, such as those in the Erindale College Student Union (ECSU). "This will serve to bring SAC closer to the various student communities at U of T," said Alexandra Artful-Dodger, the External Affairs Commissioner. "Overall, these are really positive changes."

SAC also hopes to soon create a committee which will focus on suburban issues that affect students at the three campuses.

With files from Michelle Rabba

## ECSU hosts general meeting to empty room

### Annual meeting fails to bring student concerns or interest

By Julie Tyios

On February 12, the Erindale College Student Union (ECSU) held its Annual General Meeting (AGM), during which the ECSU Board of Directors presented their portfolios to the student body for approval.

Advertising around campus and the lure of free pizza brought approximately 40 students to the start of the meeting, a count which changed significantly part-way through. Several issues were discussed, such as financial statements, each member's role and accomplishments to date and future events.

ECSU President Adil Mirza was the first to bring forth his portfolio. "My term as ECSU President has been a very exciting and educational experience," he noted. Included in his role to date was organization of Frosh Week, hiring the ECSU Office Co-Ordinator, Linda Feener, sitting in on various committees around campus, working with Dean of Student Affairs Mark Overton to create paid Work Study positions for students, and his role in discussions for the Green Papers. "I think it was a great initiative on behalf of [the Provost] to organize the Town Hall meetings. . . I hope she will implement the policies."

**"Clubs are made to segregate in a way, but you can't keep people out"**  
— Saira Quireshi.

He also stated that he was going to "revise the ECSU constitution and Bylaws so ECSU can be more accountable to students and work better for them." Mirza also added that he'd like to "examine student issues and see how [ECSU] can work better for the students of UTM."

Mirza also included his active role with the Blind Duck Pub, organizing pub nights, restructuring the menu, working in conjunction with Aramark to improve service to students. An active role in the

pub was also shared by Sean O'Connell, ECSU's VP of Finance.

O'Connell attempted "to ensure that student money is properly accounted for inside the Student Union" throughout the year. He also noted that his work this year has involved sitting in on many committees and getting feedback from students regarding the pub and events held by ECSU. Much of the other work within his portfolio also reflected that of Mizra's, due to the vast number of projects they work on together.

Vice President of Administration Dawid Gorski stated that his main responsibilities within ECSU dealt with the Info Booth staff and services and organizing the Imaginus poster sales, which resulted in "a 45% increase over last year's contributions." Gorski confessed to not being as involved with the Pub as the other executives. "I complete whatever work the pub manager books me for." He was also questioned about incomplete campaign promises made, including tinting pub windows, adding a second floor to the pub, and organizing more events. "My aspirations for the Student Centre remain the same . . . talks are in progress but some issues are unrealistic," he said.

Clubs Commissioner Saira Quireshi said she has been concentrating on getting the Mississauga Transit System coming through campus and Square One for easy accessibility, as well as improving international students' chances of getting jobs. She also revised club policies over the summer and has such responsibilities as assigning club offices, organizing club events and club meetings. She has also sat in on various committees, organized a trip to an environmental conference at Waterloo, and was involved in Frosh Week. She was commended for her work by student Moneeza Ahmed. "I had absolutely no problems this year with

anything clubs related, everything was really well organized, especially all the meetings. Good job." Quireshi was also questioned about the nature of segregation within clubs. She responded that "clubs are made to segregate in a way, but you can't keep people out."

Soon, the allure of free pizza had worn thin and the meeting fell under quorum as many students got up and left. Mohammed Hashim, SAC's University Affairs Commissioner had been chairing the meeting and asked a student to call

quorum— "Conducting business under quorum is fairly dangerous," he said. It was eventually voted that the meeting should proceed despite the lack of attendees. Uncomfortably, Hashim agreed, stating: "If we're comfortable having as many ECSU board members as students, we can continue."

Jasleen Suri, Special Projects Director, expressed that she would like to "organize committees for students to get involved" in campus happenings. Although in her campaigning she focused on preventing student apathy and improving pub nights, she has neglected to focus on the pub as of yet. Rather, she claimed to have been concentrating on Student Appreciation Days and the Winter Carnival, which have resulted in success.

**"If we're comfortable having as many ECSU members as students, we can continue"**  
— Mohammed Hashim.

Services Coordinator Carol Diab said that she has "tried to improve services to students and student morale," which she felt was "still lacking." She listed some accomplishments including the Winter Carnival, pub events, organizing the graduation formal, work on advertising committees and being involved with various environmental issues around campus.

Robert Hopkins, College Affairs Commissioner indicated that he has concentrated on volunteering issues, spreading awareness about plagiarism and helping to draw up new by-laws for Vibe Radio, which will finally become independent of both SAC and ECSU later this year. He also recently organized the ECSU Advisory Committee, which was unsuccessful, but hopes that the next one will fare more interest from students.

Advertising Director Rabia Aziz was unable to attend the meeting, as stated by Mirza "due to severe illness." All reports and the ECSU Winter Budget were approved unanimously by the remaining students, in a 14-0 vote. "I'd really like to see more students come out to meetings," said O'Connell. "This is their chance to actively participate in student government without having to be elected first."



From L. to R.- Saira Quireshi, Clubs Commissioner; Adil Mirza, President; Sean O'Connell, VP Finance; Jasleen Suri, Special Projects; Carol Diab, Services Coordinator; and Dawid Gorski, VP Administration. Absent from the picture is Rob Hopkins, College Affairs because we couldn't squeeze him in the pic.

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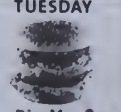



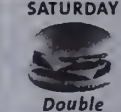
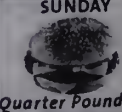


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# Mentorship program allows career insight

## Graduating students can sign up for one on one program

BY JESSICA DI LEO

For many third and fourth year students, the Alumni Mentorship Program may help in providing answers to questions about life after graduation. The program allows undergraduates to interact with an experienced member in their career field of interest. In a type of "big-brother" relationship with the mentor, the student has the opportunity to gain both practical information and experience about their desired career choice. Throughout the school year, through correspondence either in person, by telephone or via e-mail, the mentoree is able the mentor to ask career related questions.

**"This is an opportunity for students to make better career decisions"**  
— Joan McCurdy Meyers.

This program is aimed at students who have a set career path that they wish to pursue. According to Sue Prior, Alumni Development Officer, the program is offered exclusively to graduating students because, "most of the time, students in third and fourth year are more focused in doing what they want to do in their career." This restriction is important to emphasize because the Mentorship Program is not a "job shadowing" program. Instead, it is meant for students who have definite career plans post graduation, and allows these students to ask specific field related questions in order to get a better understanding of what their daily interaction within the work place will be like.

It is mandatory that students meet with their mentors in person at least three times throughout the school year. Prior emphasizes that, "it's up to the

student to contact the mentor. We want them to see the mentor at least three times during the academic year— at least once at the place of business that the mentor works at." During these meetings, "the student brings all the questions and queries that he or she has for the mentor— even questions about continued education like masters programs or certificate programs."

Although there are a few set guidelines, the quality of the program depends on the involvement of both the alumni and the mentoree. "Some of the mentors have really gone beyond the call of duty," Prior said. "I have one mentor who organized four tours (at CBC, at The Discovery Channel, and at The Globe and Mail) for all of his journalism students, and arranged one on one interviews with the journalists." Also, some mentors who are geographically unable to meet with students conduct their correspondence through e-mail, "we have on-line mentors, because a few members don't live in the area, but want to give back to the university...one mentor in England is mentoring students who want to go into forensics, another mentor works on a reservation, so she's mentoring someone in the field of aboriginal studies."

According to Joan McCurdy-Meyers, Manager of The Career Centre, the benefits to students involved outweigh the time commitment and involvement required of the program. "This is an opportunity for students to make better career decisions, based on more information that comes from actually being able to talk with someone in the field of interest, over a period of time."

Another benefit to the student that McCurdy-Meyers emphasized is that "it boosts the mentoree's confidence to have met several times with someone that's in the field, they get more comfortable, have a greater sense of equity with a professional, and when they begin their job search, I think they are more comfortable."

Both the mentors and the mentorees agree that involvement provides students with various advantages. The benefits are evident for students who

have a definite future career plan, like Astrid Poei, a third-year student and last years Sports editor for the *Medium*, who wants to pursue a career in journalism: "For someone like me who knows they want a career in journalism but have little experience in the field, it has helped me gain even more insight through discussions with experienced professionals."

The benefits are also available for those students who began the program with doubts about their career decisions. Kristine Vansickle, a fourth year Honors B.Sc. student says that discussions with her mentor helped: "I was confused about whether or not I should pursue a post-graduate degree. Talking with someone who has already gone through this helped me immensely." Nazeema Khan, a Political Science Major said, "the best part was the networking and the chance to meet so many people in the field that can be used as sources of information and future contacts."

**"The program is a really great opportunity for the participating students to test their career choices first hand with experienced alumni"**  
— Michael Debonis

Mentors in the program also recognize its benefits to students. Michael Debonis, a mentor in the human resources field agrees that, "the program is a really great opportunity for the participating students to test their career choices first hand with experienced alumni, and to get important career tips."

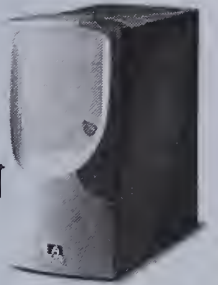
Students who wish to become involved in the program are encouraged to submit their cover letter and resume, along with a completed application form (available in the Alumni Development Office) to either Prior in the Alumni office or McCurdy-Meyers at the Career Centre. The deadline for this years applicants is March 2003.

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# YOU

## Legal action taken against SAC committee

*continued from front*

to do it when I found out because I did not feel I was the right person to host such an event, and so he assumed the duties."

According to Kusi-Achampong, there is a contract in existence between Debonair Entertainment that states Baby Blue Soundcrew will be scheduled to play at both the Erindale and Scarborough campuses at points throughout the year. "The dates are received, with respect to the entertainment's availability and facilities accommodation, and then SAC proceeds to advertise. Given the time sensitive nature of our party planning, Debonair Entertainment informed SAC that advertising could proceed, and given their contractual obligation and their impeccable track record at organizing events, I could not reasonably foresee any potential problem," he said.

Kusi-Achampong also added that a problem arose with regards to miscommunication about the date of the event, and since Baby Blue Soundcrew could not make the event, a replacement had to be found. "My concern was to make sure that hundreds of UTM students were not disappointed in the absence of a party."

Crawford seemed shocked at the supposed contract: "Who is Debonair? Who they have a contract with is not pertinent to Babyblue! Babyblue has no contract with Rocco, Erindale Campus, or Debonair. Our name was used illegally and legal action is being taken." He also added that there was no prior contact with Baby Blue Soundcrew regarding the show, and that it was purely a matter

of falsely advertising an imitation group under Baby Blue's name and logo. He also noted that it was suggested by Kusi-Achampong that Baby Blue make an appearance at a future party to make up for the event. Crawford has hired legal counsel and is proceeding with action against the SAC 101 Planning committee for the event.

Baby Blue usually charges approximately \$2-3000 per appearance, but is only asking for a settlement of \$500 as well as reimbursement for legal fees. "We're currently in the process of writing a strongly worded letter... We're comfortable financially but would rather expose the injustice done to us and our fans and put a stop to shady promoters who advertise illegally without consent... Our primary focus is to set an example, and we're considering using the money we've asked for as a settlement to make a partial refund to those who attended the event as well as make an appearance on campus to sign autographs for the students."

This event coincides with the storm of controversy surrounding Kusi-Achampong and his term in office as SAC President. Motions have been made to impeach him due to prior actions on his behalf that went against SAC as well as spending student money without consent. Crawford revealed disappointment in Kusi-Achampong's actions. "He [Kusi-Achampong] has without a doubt tainted the reputation of the SAC with his shenanigans... The Students of U of T deserve better than to be lied to and manipulated by an individual that cannot deliver what he/she promises."

## Employee offended by Gorski

*continued from front*

ment he's received from Mirza and O'Connell. "Adil, myself and Sean don't see eye to eye... I have a lot of respect for Adil, I really do, [but] he bonded with Sean and both of them mutually exclude me from everything." Gorski feels that the maltreatment received from both Mirza and O'Connell have negatively affected his role, and discouraged him. "If Adil and Sean had included me in their team, I would have devoted all of my time into ECSU. But they put me down in front of everyone on a daily basis... In the context of what's been happening, I think I've done a pretty damn good job." Gorski also claims that Mirza has taken the initiative of acting as VP of administration and that "Adil is very territorial," thereby affecting his job and his ability to properly fulfill his responsibilities.

**"As VP Admin, and taking a full course load, I don't have the time to run after everyone and hold everyone's hand in the task of the Info-booth"**  
— Dawid Gorski

O'Connell and Mirza deny any mistreatment or discouragement. "Many times and instances were put forth to include him," said O'Connell, but claims that Gorski's lack of presence in the ECSU office has hindered his involvement greatly. "We have collaborated on dealings and ideas, and unfortunately Dawid just happens not to be there at those times [ideas arise]." Mirza also denies Gorski's accusations. "I take the job very seriously, and I

expect a certain level from the executives, and I am accountable to making sure that they are doing their jobs." He also claims that Gorski uses the excuse of mistreatment as a defense mechanism for criticism: "He will only bring those concerns up when I address an issue with him. He will never tell me in what manner I've been unfair or rude through specific incidences. I can say with complete confidence that I have not treated him unfairly or in a condescending manner." Mirza also indicated discomfort from other ECSU members: "A number of people in this office have expressed a disliking towards working with him, because he's not very receptive or understanding."

Problems escalated during the Christmas Break, when Gorski left on a trip to Mexico without giving notice, and without completing the term's scheduling for the info-booth staff. Gorski claims that "I wasn't given sufficient notice [for the trip] myself," and that he had left for personal reasons. Mirza was not informed of his departure, and accidentally discovered that Gorski was in Mexico just previous to his return. He also claims that on Dec.

19<sup>th</sup>, he had questioned Gorski and O'Connell whether they would be around for Christmas Break, to which they both replied yes. Mirza later discovered Gorski had informed other ECSU members his plans in traveling to Mexico, to which Gorski denies. Gorski, however, also claims he was aware of a possibility in his departure approximately two weeks before leaving.

Mirza was left to fulfill the Info-booth staff responsibilities and hire additional staff to compensate for the holes in the schedule Gorski had sent to staff via e-mail from Mexico. "I sent them an e-mail a good week before I left asking them to submit their schedules," said Gorski, but claims he had only received a response from a few employees. He had kept the schedule the same as the previous terms schedule because the employees who e-mailed him back requested the same hours they previously had. "As VP admin and taking a full course load, I don't have the time to run after everyone and hold everyone's hand in the task of the Info-booth," he said.

Eisee Sylvester, an Info-booth staff member, requested an apology from Gorski due to his unprofessional scheduling and mismanagement, to which Gorski replied in an e-mail: "In the business world you do not get to pick who you work with. You deal with it. If you have a problem with your manager you solve it, or else you are replaced." Sylvester found the letter to be rude and threatening, and further requested an apology from Gorski to be sent to all staff for his actions. In a meeting with Mirza and Sylvester, a written apology was promised to Sylvester, although Gorski presently denies this. "I gave her a very sincere apology [at the meeting] and told her I didn't want to send her a written apology because I didn't want her to circulate it to all her friends."

Mirza claims that although "he brought those concerns in the meeting, he said he would write the apology letter and send it to the rest of the staff." Sylvester took alternate methods of handling the situation since Gorski had not apologized and approached Student Affairs regarding the situation. In an e-mail sent to Gorski, Sylvester wrote: "It has been exactly one week since our meeting. During that meet-

ing, you stated that you would send me a written apology for your unprofessional and somewhat threatening e-mail. I had hoped I would not have to take my concerns beyond the ECSU office, but if they cannot be addressed in so simple a manner, I am afraid I shall have to extend my complaint to other resources. It is very distressing to find you so apparently unwilling to do a very small thing to restore good faith between yourself and a member of your staff." Sylvester also claims that Gorski is barely around and the Info-booth staff are "functioning on our own." Also, as an employee of the Info-booth for three years, Sylvester adds that she has never endured such problems and mismanagement.

**"A number of people in this office have expressed a disliking towards working with him, because he's not very receptive or understanding"**  
— Adil Mirza

Both O'Connell and Mirza are disappointed in Gorski's handling of the situation. Gorski, however, feels that "I don't think there has been as much damage done as Eisee claims." Gorski also explains that there may be a misconception in the context of his e-mails. "In some of the e-mails I sent, when the staff was being careless, I added quotes like 'pull up your socks' and to act professionally, which to me are words of encouragement and motivation rather than criticism," he said. Mirza, however, claims that "It's not just Eisee who feels this way. Other staff has come to me with concerns. The way they [the e-mails] were used was not in a very motivational manner... in one particular e-mail, he used profanity in addressing the staff." Mirza also explains that several staff members feel that Gorski can be rude and patronizing.

Ultimately, Gorski acknowledges some irresponsibility for his actions: "The way I handled the situation, I think there was a lot of room for improvement. I think I should have responded a lot quicker, and that I definitely should have sent everyone an apology letter." Sylvester, however, still awaits an apology from Gorski.

Gorski, although saddened and upset at his relationship with other ECSU members and the escalation of the situation, claims, "I've realized that in this situation, I'm working for the students, not for Sean or Adil, that's why I've decided that I'm going to give it my best... and not let things like that stand in my way anymore."



Gorski at ECSU's AGM, looking saddened at his predicament. photo/Mehraan Pavri

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## EDITORIAL

## THE MEDIUM

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## A little more common sense and a little less negligence, please.

After attending last week's ECSU Annual General Meeting, I was disappointed (but not surprised) to see the few full chairs quickly empty as the lofty smell of pizza dissipated. I guess that's what it takes to get students coming in—free food. But what does it take to keep them in there? The whole situation left me displeased. Aside from myself being one of the few who asked any questions, I am constantly subject to hearing disgruntled students complain about and criticize our student organizations. Yet the one real opportunity students had to publicly question one of those organizations slipped by. Considering all the negative letters *The Medium* receives and opinions I hear about ECSU and SAC's irresponsibility and unreliability, I would have thought that more individuals would jump at the chance to inquire about where their money is going, question broken campaign promises, or see what their representatives are planning for them.

For instance, it seemed like I was the only one at the ECSU AGM who found it humorous that the majority of individuals who run for ECSU cite improving the pub as their 'big undertaking.' Jasleen Suri, Special Projects Director, made improving the pub the very focus of her campaign. But when asked about it at the meeting, she claimed she was busy focusing on other events, mainly Student Appreciation Day's. I'm sorry Jasleen, but it's not that hard to order a few pizzas, hire a tarot card reader, plaster a few advertisements, and call it 'Student Appreciation Day.' True, your efforts in helping Carol Diab (Services Coordinator) with the Winter Carnival resulted in a successful event—but that was a month ago. Do something else. The only ECSU members who make an effort to volunteer at the pub are President Adil Mirza and VP of Finance Sean O'Connell, and Diab. Dawid Gorski (VP of Administration) also smothered his 2002 campaign pamphlets with empty promises about improving the pub and student apathy, but has not carried out on a single one of those promises. That's besides the fact that he also rarely attends the pub. How can the members of ECSU, who are responsible for the pub, expect students to show interest if they themselves don't?

Students also missed out on being able to ask Gorski exactly what he's accomplished so far this year. There are some problems between Gorski and his fellow ECSU executives, Mirza and O'Connell, which he claims is the reason for his inability to effectively act as VP of Admin. Being made to feel that you are underappreciated and disgraced are certainly grounds for apathy. But I would be more sympathetic if you didn't work in a student organization, and if you weren't getting paid. Doing a substandard job is no excuse, and if this problem has accumulated from the beginning of the year, you should have resigned. Gorski also claims that he's realized his responsibility to the students, and will make a difference within the next few months. Allow me to give you a nice pat on the back, but also say that that should have clicked a long time ago. As for the mistreatment towards Info-booth staff, that is both unprofessional and amateurish. You owe your staff an apology, and should spend some time trying to gain their respect and understanding to compensate for any mistreatment you've directed towards them. So everyone in ECSU doesn't get along. So what? Chances are that not everyone you work with will like you, and doing an inadequate job in most places will get you fired. By the way Gorski, like the e-mails you send to your Info-booth staff, this is all said in an attempt to 'encourage' and 'motivate' you, not discourage you.

But this editorial isn't just limited to ECSU. SAC has had their share of follies and fuck-ups as well. Does it really surprise anyone to hear that Rocco Kusi-Achampong (SAC President) manipulated Erindale students with the Baby Blue Soundcrew incident? What he did was incredibly stupid, but slightly humorous. Surely he knew that certain laws exist which his actions would violate. If anything, rather than exasperated at his actions, I'm beginning to pity the man for self-inflicting so many of his problems. Hopefully one day common sense will kick in and help him make some decisions that can be deemed logical.

Elections are coming up. The campus is soon going to be raided with pamphlets, posters and campaign promises. Instead of listening and nodding your heads this time to those who are running, call them on their bullshit.

**The Medium** is published weekly by Medium II Publications, a non-profit, incorporated student organization. The opinions expressed within are those of the writers and editors and do not necessarily reflect those of Medium II Publications. **The Medium's** mandate includes informing students of local and national concerns, and giving Erindale College students an opportunity to practice journalism. Blurry eyes courtesy of staring into computer screen.

Sunday, Darryl: you're driving me insane. By the end of the year, you will give me an ulcer. Poor Andrea had to show her car out of all of the snow this morning. Drama in the office today. Congratulations, I think, I heard you did well in your play. My brother is in a Cannon, lucky they missed all this snow. Plans get cancelled last night because of it, but it turned out to be a good thing. I hope you feel better Jan. Tomorrow, get some rest. I can see the blood rushing to your face from here. Damn that woman's intuition. My mom is in a Windsor night now. I hope she gets stuck there for a few more days. Man I'm gonna today. So Rocco just paid about \$20 grand. Don't I feel slightly ripped off? Karma will kick you right in the ass, oh Andrea's hushes. Glad you could make it Darryl. Ench is having trouble transferring our cartoon this week. Andrea and Darryl are wrestling fantasies, just make sure it's MONDAY night rock ok Darryl? Mehraan stole his pants. Haha. Just make sure you guys don't play the same venue. Quiet in the office. Wow, 6:30 and Andrea is heading out. Lucky girl. Johanna got a really cute haircut. I've spent the entire weekend in this office, it's on the cusp of pathetic. Good luck in your modern Mehraan! Darryl claims to have good rain. Thank you for the c.d. Stefano? Mehraan got out of here early. Brian got rid of stuff marks on BOOTS Darryl. How your mind does wander. Darryl implemented a new rule for the office. I like one that it's brilliant. Wow, the air is feeling thick in the office. Thanks Jay for helping with the pasting! Lucky, he's just starting his Reading Week. We're almost done. Getting a little nauseous. 6:45pm!!!

Rocco Kusi-Achampong's next mistake...



Ya!! Smushing Pumpkins!!

No. Not Smushing, S-M-U-S-H-I-N-G.

What the hell!?!

EF 63

## Student feels it's time to sack SAC

The Student Administrative Council (SAC), for those of you who are not familiar with it, is the "student-run organisation that voices the concerns of all 33,000 undergraduates." Wow, impressive. All 33,000 of us. But did you vote in the last election? Well, neither did I. Neither did 30,000 of us. In fact, SAC does not represent us, but the few radical students that did actually vote (less than one in ten). According to a recent poll conducted by *The Varsity*, most students, over 70%, have negative feelings regarding SAC and 9% are unsure what its purpose is. Trinity College is seriously considering dropping SAC altogether and like many at the University of Toronto, I applaud the move. SAC has for too long used our tuition money to support ridiculous, and at times even offensive, endeavours.

What type of endeavours? In April 2001, SAC requested that those students wishing to protest the Summit of the Americas in Québec City receive special "academic accommodations" from U of T. These few students (not more than a couple hundred) wanted to defer their examinations and protest the "evil capitalism". If their petition had been granted, it would have been detrimental to the rest of us because their higher marks (from much more study time) would have brought up the average in each class, thus giving rise to harsher marking by professors. This also brings up other questions such as which causes will SAC

support? There are underground anti-Semitic groups in Toronto, will SAC support them too? Do they not have every right to protest as well? Luckily for us, the university rejected their request.

SAC's current president, Rocco Kusi-Achampong, was cited in *The Varsity* less than a month ago claiming success over a \$22,000 party at the local dance club, "The Government." To support this claim, he compared his party with an even more sickening \$80,000 party that SAC funded a few years ago. Farcically, another SAC official, Alex Artful-Dodger, rejected this saying that the majority of the party-goers were not U of T students at all but people just off the street looking for a good and free time. If you were one of the non-student attendees, you can thank Rocco for his \$22,000 bash that the rest of us paid for.

SAC also has taken a position on the current affairs in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. SAC paid \$1000 in September to the International Socialists to help them protest on side with pro-Palestinian groups. The problem in this is that SAC should not be giving money to anyone to protest anything. It is not their place to decide what to support and what not to. They should not be allowed to use our money to support the causes they want. Neither should they be allowed to put such intellectual rubbish as what was written on SAC's front door no less than two weeks ago— "W. Bush is a cunt" (now changed to "moron"). SAC

says it is not responsible but why has nothing been done to erase it? Such slander is an embarrassment not only to the University of Toronto, but to all of Canada in general. Canada proudly claims to be a place of diversity, multiculturalism and respect for different points of view. "W. Bush is a cunt" is none of these.

Many SAC officials, unlike most of their American and European counterparts, receive thousands of dollars in salaries. When I asked the receptionist at SAC-Mississauga office how much, she told me "only a few thousand." In fact, the president of SAC makes an *after-tax* income of over \$20,000, plus benefits. Such a waste of money is absolutely unacceptable. American and European student governing organisations receive no salary money whatsoever. The student representatives of those countries work in a volunteer capacity for the betterment of their school. As can be seen by the flurry of corruption, irregularities and follies, SAC is clearly not working for the betterment of our university. It is because of this I find it rather perversely comical that such an organisation would claim it is the instrument by which we students voice our concerns to the university's governing body. Trinity College should break from SAC and the other colleges should follow.

Sincerely,  
Andrew Zezan

## Campus services dwindle as student population increases

What in the world is wrong with our university? It is bad enough when administration takes advantage of us, but when fellow students do so as well, it is a new low.

Will there be no escape from power abusing student leaders that seek to inflict their will over the students? Amazingly, our student leaders continue to seek some respect from their peers, but who will respect such a bunch of fools who continually try to pull one over all the students?

Recently SAC has followed ECSU's example and has shown to be an organization full of anarchy and chaos. SAC President Rocco Kusi-Achampong seems to have no remorse for throwing out thousands of student saver cards and wasting \$22,000 on an un-advertised and unheard of SAC birthday party. It is time he and his rogues step down and salvage whatever is left of the year.

With over six thousand students at Erindale, it seems that student apathy is at its highest. It is hard to blame the student leaders when we lie down and take whatever is handed over to us. Enough is enough, stand up and demand

to be represented. Our services are being reduced every year, and we do nothing about it. Having one back machine on a campus our size is ridiculous. I have seen corner gas stations with more ATM's than our poor outdated ATM in the South Building. Congratulations to administration on renewing the "one machine deal" on campus. Keep it up.

With the double cohort next year, we will have another line up on our campus, this one for money at the ATM machine. I guess Scotia Bank's one bank machine contract also follows the one "out of order" change machine on campus. Last year there were two, one in the student centre, but then administration realized that would be too many. So now we are

back to one. I hope I don't have to catch the bus with the \$20 bill note in my pocket. With no change available at night, I just might have to take a taxi, again.

These dwindling services are met with fewer events for the students. Whatever happened to ECSU's annual "What's your Beef?" event, where students had the opportunity to question administration's policies?

It seems there is a conspiracy theory going on, but the only true way to find out is by voicing your concerns and making student leaders accountable for their actions.

Sincerely,  
Mohsin Khan

## Letters Policy

Letters to the editor will be edited for spelling, grammar, style, and coherence. Letters will not exceed 500 words in print. Letters that incite hatred, violence or letters that are racist, homophobic, sexist, or libelous, will not be published. Letters reflect

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## OPINION

## Parking costs based on pricing principle

On Tuesday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2003, there was a joint meeting of the Resource Planning and Priorities Committee and the College Affairs Committee of Erindale College Council. It met largely to approve the Ancillary Budgets/Financial Plans for residences, conference services, food services and parking (all of which were subsequently approved by College Council). As ever, the parking issue was the longest and most contentiously debated, but this is as it should be since it really is a microcosm of the debate about what sort of campus we want this part of our University to be.

The issue is quite simple, over the next few years the number of bodies using this fixed geographical area of the University of Toronto is going to grow by a factor of 1.6, which begs the question: how are we going to deal with a "quart into a pint pot" scenario without diminishing the quality of student education and faculty thinking and research?

Obviously, car parking provides an ideal context within which to play out this debate. The Parking Ancillary Operating Plan Management Report title said it all, "Pay or Pave." We could turn the campus into a much larger parking lot than it already is, at relatively little material expense (i.e. cheap paved lots at \$2,200 per parking slot), or we could preserve the "Nature Reserve" quality of the campus (as one of my esteemed colleagues put it) at greater material expense (underground car parking at \$32000 per slot or above ground multi story car parking at \$22,000 per slot).

The report and the debate acknowledged the "widespread support for minimizing the paving of the campus for parking," but perhaps that is because the wrong question was posed. When the choice is unconstrained, we are all in favour of preserving the environment, just as we are all in

favour of eliminating poverty (the latter becomes an entirely different issue when one is asked to donate a quarter of one's income to someone whose income is less than half of ours!). As a minimum, this sort of question should be posed as "Do you support minimizing the paving on campus at any expense?" I sincerely doubt that the positive response would be so widespread.

**"When the choice is unconstrained, we are all in favour of preserving the environment, just as we all are in favour of eliminating poverty."**

The argument was also posited that the campus environment should be preserved because it is necessary for the maintenance of the quality of our teaching and research, a place where teacher, student, scholar and researcher would want to spend much time co-existing together. This argument is specious at best, many of the greatest institutions of learning in the world are, at best, wastelands of concrete and stone. Indeed they lend support to the contrary argument that a sound ecological environment is neither a necessary nor sufficient condition for the existence of a premier institution of research and learning. In essence, having a tree outside my window has very little to do with how effective I am at getting a student to connect with a good idea, or how good I am at getting a good idea in the first place!

Perhaps the argument that is most logically sustainable is the purely aesthetic one "the pleasure the 'Nature Reserve' quality of the campus yields me is worth the expense incurred in sustaining it." This appeals to the "tree huggers"

amongst us (of which I am unashamedly one. I commute 65 kilometers from the countryside each day to prove it!).

Unfortunately, those of us with a predilection for trees will not bear the full cost. It will of course be born by all - students, staff and faculty, tree huggers or not - in the greater expense incurred in maintaining the "Central Mississauga Nature Reserve" (be it through much higher parking fees or the inconvenience of car pooling or public transport) because it is a publicly provided good.

The primary mission of a university is really quite simple (it does not require a multi-page mission statement!) - it is the preservation and extension of the boundaries of knowledge through teaching and research. The cost of so doing is made much higher for all by attempting to attain ecological and environmental objectives which are not directly within its mandate. From an environmental viewpoint it is probably far more important to prevent the further encroachment of the Greater Toronto Area on its green hinterland than it is to preserve an urban oasis in the middle of Mississauga.

We should all ponder these things. What sort of campus do we want and at what price? To help our thinking, as of now, the cost of a 5 year term mortgage, amortized over 25 years (which gives a rough guide to the relative annual material costs involved) is \$2100 per year for \$32000, \$1440 for a \$22000 and \$180 for a \$2200 mortgage. To the extent that the more expensive forms of car parking are not fully taken up, the cheaper forms of car parking would have to increase in price accordingly since the college effectively works on an average cost pricing principle.

Gordon Anderson,  
Professor of Economics

## Erindale students robbed by downtown

*This is a series of articles meant to educate Erindale students about the incidental fees that they pay each year*

Being an Erindale student at U of T means that you are an exceptional person - who can be expected to tolerate much. If you want to take a special course, go downtown. If you want to go to the best library in Canada, go downtown. If you need to talk to your prof on Wednesday, go downtown. Tolerable? Perhaps, but what you read next may not be as light of a burden that we, students at the UTM campus, can be expected to bear. When it comes to student fees, student services, and a student voice, Erindale students are systematically underrepresented, under serviced as a proportion of the entire U of T student population, and we're choosing to pay money - almost \$700 for full-time (FT), and \$200 for part-time (PT) students - for these substandard levels of treatment.

Every FT & PT student at the UTM campus pays for the number of courses they enrol in, and, depending on the number of courses they've chosen, a set amount of incidental fees. Incidentally, we all have to pay these fees, the purpose of which is to enhance our student quality of life at the university. The university collects the money and the incidental fees are divided into campus fees - given to the campus administration, and societies fees - given to student representative bodies. Being a U of T undergraduate student means you have to pay these fees, the college that the undergraduate student attends determines how much these fees will be and what services they will provide. Here's where the bad deal starts for Erindale College students.

UTM FT students paid \$375 in campus fees, while downtown students paid \$485.62. Although we're paying less, our campus fees (for FT & PT students) rose by 70% in the last three years, while campus fees rose by 2.9% in the same period downtown and 17% at Scarborough.

As the campus fees are broken up into detail, Erindale students pay three different athletic fees, a health services fee, a Hart House fee (Hart House is located downtown) and a student services fee. Erindale students paid the highest amount of student services fees, \$191.13 for FT and \$57.34 for PT students compared to \$147.42 & \$47.22, and \$152.37 & \$45.71, for downtown and Scarborough students respectively.

Erindale students pay the most student services fees? Does that mean that we have the best student services at the university? I am not going to answer that question, but

will leave it to you and for those who have seen both, or all three campuses to decide. But, you must remember that Erindale students also pay a library enhancement fee and a student centre levy, that is separate from the student services fee and is collected as a societies fee, therefore the student centre must be excluded from the comparison, as well as the marvellous extra library services we enjoy at Erindale.

Societies fees are a more interesting story because these are fees that are directly controlled by student governments and societies, either at Erindale or downtown. This means the amount of fees collected and how these fees are spent, are decided by us in theory and by the student government executives in practice.

There are five student societies that UTM students pay for. All students pay a fee towards the UTM Athletic council (\$8.60 for FT and \$2.77 for PT students). FT students paid \$86.25 to ECSU (Erindale College Student Union) and \$220.07 to SAC (Students Administrative Council). SAC is the downtown-based student organization that represents all U of T students. Although they may claim to only represent undergraduate students, SAC collects fees from students in dentistry, law, medicine and pharmacy. In just the last two years, SAC fees have gone up by \$36 (get ready to pay another \$12.54 next year to SAC), while the ECSU rate has remained unchanged for at least the last four years.

PT students paid \$60.35 to APUS (Association of Part-time Undergraduate Students) and \$17.60 to EPUS (Erindale Part-time Undergraduate Students). While the EPUS rate has remained steady, the APUS rate grew by 10% in the last three years.

So is the complaint that the downtown organizations are increasing their rates, while the Erindale societies aren't? Not exactly. Only when those fees are broken down and analyzed is there a deeper and underlying truth, which exposes an underlying scam when it comes to the societies fees, and Erindale students who have to pay them.

PT students are defined as students enrolled in 4 credits or less. This year there were 1,622 part-time students at Erindale. Excluding the drug plan and student centre levy, \$25.77 was collected from each PT student for the different student societies (just to run their government), for a total of \$40,176.94.

The money was used to enhance the student quality of life for PT students at UTM right? The money was used to further serve the interests and functions that PT students at Erindale might have, right? I don't know, but this is what I do know: 80% of the money that PT students at Erindale paid, \$32,440 of the money that came out of the pockets of PT students at Erindale went straight to APUS. The money - our money - went downtown. Gone. Vanished. No longer here at Erindale.

Is there justification for such a gross injustice? Probably not. But then again, everyone's heard of the great deeds of APUS at UTM. Oh yeah, and the time APUS... (you fill in the blanks, but it is likely to stay that way - blank). Did this just happen this year? Nope. It's been happening for years now, and over the last four years, APUS milked Erindale students for over \$100,000. Imagine what \$100,000 could've done for students at Erindale.

Now, if you're a FT student, you may be reading this and thanking your lucky stars that you never were a part-time student, but you too have been robbed of your money-blind. Who's the culprit? Our friends at SAC.

Mark Fahmy

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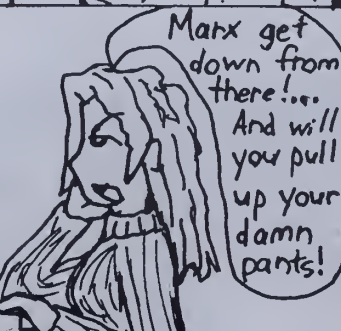
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## RANDOM THOUGHTS

Some things just shouldn't Mix!

BY MIKE ELLIS

CIRCLE OF LIFE MY ASS!! I'LL SHOW YOU WHO'S KING OF THE JUNGLE!!  
AAAAHH!!  
EIEEE!  
OH MY GOD!!



## FEATURES

## The search is on for Guatemala's missing children

BY AARON BATES

It has been six years since the official end of Guatemala's 36 years of state repression and genocide. More than 20 years have passed since the military massacres and calculated acts of state terrorism tore apart Maya Achi communities in the area of Rabinal, department of Baja Verapaz. Today, widows and massacre survivors are beginning the search for children and grandchildren lost or disappeared during the conflict.

The Association for Integral Development of the Victims of Violence in the Verapaz Departments (ADIVIMA) is a grass roots organization located in Rabinal. It works to dignify the memory of those people killed during the years of violence, to seek justice for the crimes against humanity of the past, and to provide social and economic opportunities for surviving victims.

As part of this work, ADIVIMA is working with the National Commission for the Search for Disappeared Children to locate and identify children who disappeared, were kidnapped, or adopted during the years of repression and genocide.



In 1999, a United Nations Truth Commission concluded that over 200,000 people (mainly Mayan) were massacred or disappeared, close to 1.5 million were displaced from their homes and communities, and that hundreds of thousands of children were orphaned. The Truth Commission found that the Guatemalan regime (then, as now, fully backed by the USA, other western countries, the World Bank, global companies and banks) carried out genocide in Mayan regions of the country.

During the years of violence, certain members of the Catholic Church were actively (and courageously) involved with sheltering children. These children were either orphaned by the massacres or born to mothers who were raped, rape having been a widespread form of repression used by the Army and paramilitaries.

"During this meeting, four children from the surrounding villages... were tentatively identified by family members"

As part of their search, massacre survivors, along with ADIVIMA and representatives from the National Commission for the Search for Disappeared Children met with Catholic Sisters in the northern town of Cantabál, and in the community of Pacux, near Rabinal. The hopes were that the Sisters could have leads to the missing children.

In Pacux (where survivors of the 1982 Rio Negro massacres now live), a Catholic Sister who had worked with orphaned children in the Rabinal area during the conflict brought testimonies and photos of 32 children adopted by families in Ireland, Norway and Sweden. During this meeting, four children from the surrounding villages of Cancún, Chichupac and Chuateguá, as well as from Pacux were tentatively identified by family members. Three of these children had been held captive by the military, while the fourth had been given to the Catholic Church since the mother was raped by a member of the military.

Identifying lost children (these "children" are now all adults in their 20's) is not a first step in reuniting families. Potential reunion of these families is a complex and heart-wrenching process, in the best case scenario. The lives led by these young adults in Europe are as different from their families in rural Guatemala as it is possible to imagine. They speak English, Norwegian and Swedish. Their biological families speak the Mayan language of Achi, and perhaps Spanish as a second language.

As of yet, only 12 of the 32 children have consented to have their biological families contact them. It is likely that few of the children have much knowledge of the extent of repression and genocide that occurred to their home communities when they were infants.

Given these conditions, some might question if the search for children disappeared and lost over 20 years ago is worth it. What is the value of having painful meetings with disdainful, often racist military officials regarding a mass kidnapping when all that is offered in response is recycled rhetoric? What is the value of searching for children adopted by European families with the knowledge that your child does not speak your language, knows nothing of your culture and may not have given consent to be contacted?

Clearly though, the meetings and this process are crucial for the surviving family members, who often walk half a day from their isolated communities to reach meetings. For these survivors, still living in poverty and facing racism, it is the process of re-building their torn and dispersed families and communities that is important; they have had so much taken away from them that getting back even a little



Bodies of the victims of violence in Guatemala are being found years later. Many children are still considered missing; they may be living in other countries.

of it back means a lot.

During the meetings women have stood up and told their stories, usually for the first time, with the knowledge that others were interested in what they had to say. Many wept while describing why they desperately had to turn their children over to the church. More wept while speaking of how their children were kidnapped and lifted away by a military helicopter before their eyes.

For perhaps the first time in their lives, these women were able to speak openly about their experiences and suffering. Healing old wounds can take many forms, and knowing that others are compassionately listening is one of them. Individual and community healing is the crucial

first step to the community re-building and economic development work that ADIVIMA also carries out.

Meetings of this sort are an essential part of the healing process.

For all the value that lies in confronting your oppressors, in speaking openly and humanly of your loss, and in identifying and locat-

ing lost children, these people remain poor and marginalized. They remain uncompensated for the tremendous losses they suffered during Guatemala's 36 years of conflict, repression and genocide. However small human rights victories might appear, often seeming invisible, immeasurable steps, these efforts and encounters are hugely important victories in the path towards healing, re-building and justice.

Aaron Bates is a Canadian International Development Agency youth intern working with ADIVIMA in Rabinal, Guatemala. The CIDA internship programme in Rabinal is jointly administered by Rights Action, the Tatamagouche Centre, and the Maritimes Breaking the Silence network. He can be reached at:

[aaron.bates@ziplip.com](mailto:aaron.bates@ziplip.com)

"Given these conditions, some might question if the search for children disappeared and lost over 20 years ago is worth it"

On Tuesday, February 25, Jesus Tecu Osorio, a Maya-Achi man from Guatemala, and co-founder of ADIVIMA will speak at Erindale

Campus with Jessica Pupovac from the Guatemala office of Rights Action. The event, hosted by Breakdown, will take place at 7:30 in the Student Centre Presentation Room.

Check out the Medium's website

<http://medium.sutoronto.ca>

utoronto.ca

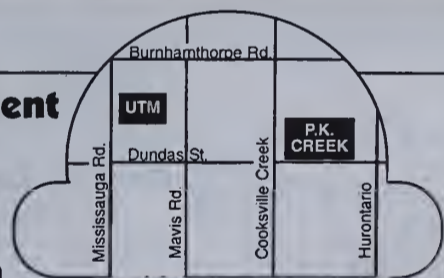


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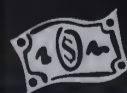
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# ConC brightens lives on campus

BY JESSY ABED

Over the past 2 years I have been volunteering with Community on Campus. During this time I have been asked several questions pertaining to my involvement with ConC. The large volume of questions asked by many of my peers is what prompted me to write this article.

The typical questions asked included "What is Community on Campus?" "Where is it located?" "What do they do there?" and "How do you get involved with it?" I am sure many of you that are reading this article are wondering the same thing as well.

I will try and give you a brief account of what Community on Campus does here, what my role as a volunteer includes and why it is so important to have an organization such as this one.

ConC is an opportunity for students to spend their time and energy giving back to community. It is a subdivision of Community Living Mississauga which is a non-profit organization that provides support to individuals who have an intellectual disability.

The idea behind Community on Campus is both to create volunteer opportunities for the students of Erindale and, at the same time,

**"It sounds so cliché to say that one really enjoys giving back to others, but there is no better way to describe it"**

provide meaningful daytime activities for the people they support. The student volunteers are given guidance to enable them to assist these individuals in various daytime activities. The activities are carefully chosen by the

individual to further develop their interests and help them achieve their personal goals.

A typical day could include participation in literacy activities, social activities, D.J. at VIBE radio, accessing the computer and internet, fitness and sports.

The Community on Campus brochure can be found outside room 3141E. Their philosophy, as simply stated in this brochure, is that 'all people will live in a state of dignity and respect, share in all elements of living in a community which is welcoming, accepting and inclusive of all individuals.'

This is the kind of attitude and belief system that we should all adopt. Just because someone is limited in a certain ability, it should not mean they he or she should be excluded from participation in university life. All individuals have a right, regardless of the disability they may have, to participate actively in their community.

This wonderful organization is currently being coordinated by Byron Cardoso with the assistance

of this year's placement student Lisa Chenard. On average, they have about 50 active volunteers from the Erindale campus community that dedicate an hour or two a week

to help support 10 people.

More volunteers are always welcome to become a part of our team. To find out any more infor-

mation, go to the office located in South Building and Byron will be happy to fill you in. We hope to

**Community on Campus is an opportunity for students to spend their time and energy giving back to the community"**

see more of you join and give back to our community!

It sounds so cliché to say that one really enjoys giving back to others, but there is no better way to describe it. On

several occasions I have gone to volunteer in a state of depression or sadness, but after spending an hour volunteering with any of the individuals from ConC, my mood lightens and I feel like I'm on top of the world.

I remember one summer in particular I was with one of the individuals in the gym. I was lifting my arms to help her with the overhead bar and she screamed aloud that she could see my belly ring. She could not stop laughing and a few of my friends who were also working out in the gym joined her in laughing at my exposed midrib. For weeks to come she often greeted me with the reminder of how entertaining the event of that day was.

Perhaps some of you do not get this humour or maybe it was just one of those jokes you had to be there for. But nonetheless, it made my day and brought happiness to those I worked with.

For me, ConC has been fulfilling and I have thoroughly enjoyed volunteering for such an organization. I know I speak for many others when I say this. With this, I would like to encourage more of you to join something which adds meaning to your life as well as those around you.

## Landmines: serious issue

BY ELISABETH KING

"Thank goodness there are no landmines in Canada," people often respond when I am out speaking on the issue.

True. However the landmine issue is one that many Torontonians know about first hand, and one that Canadians

across the country have taken to heart.

From people on the TTC (when they notice my "ban landmines" briefcase), to taxi drivers (when they have to pick me up at the "Canadian Landmine Foundation"), from students in classrooms where I go to talk about the issue, to people that call the office with questions, many Torontonians know about landmines all too well. For those of us that are lucky enough not to have such intimate knowledge, this week presents an opportunity to learn more and to take action.



This week, declared by Toronto's Mayor Mel Lastman as "Canadian Landmine Awareness Week", marks the fourth anniversary of the activation of the Ottawa Convention Banning Landmines. It is a unique Canadian achievement and probably the best example of working multilateralism in the world today. Over 75% of the world's countries have signed or acceded to the Convention.

However, there are still an estimated

15 000 to 20 000 new landmine victims every year, the majority of which are civilians. Landmines cannot tell the difference between war and peace. They last long after wars are over. They can-

**"Landmines cannot tell the difference between war and peace"**

not tell the difference between the footsteps of a soldier or of a child. Children continue

to be one of the

largest groups of victims affected by landmines. Landmines affect all aspects of a community's reconstruction from access to water to agricultural lands to education.

There are a multitude of problems spreading across the planet today. Sometimes we feel that we don't know where to start. One thing that makes the issue of landmines unique is that it is a solvable problem. Eradicating landmines can realistically in our lifetimes be checked off the world's "to do" list. This, however, requires a renewed commitment by the public and by governments.

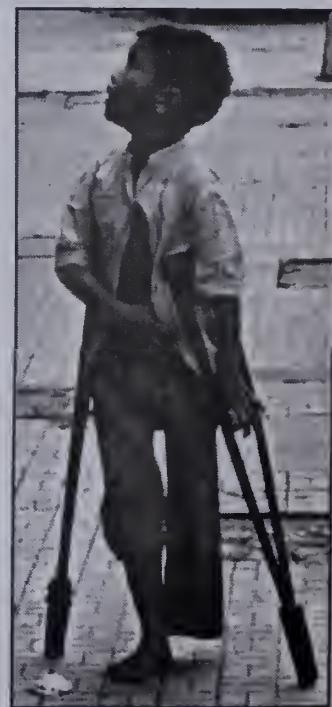
So here in Toronto where a walk in the park can be so simple, let's take a moment to think of those that aren't free to walk without fear and what we can do to help change that reality.

This article was sent to over 40 different Toronto publications representing 20 ethnic communities. 75 % of those groups' home communities are landmine affected.

Canadian Landmine Awareness Events in Toronto (February 24<sup>th</sup> – March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2003):

"The Legacy of the Perfect Soldier" photography by Giovanni Diffidenti. Free at the Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge St.

"No Man's Land" Academy Award Winning Film 2001. March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7:30 pm, Jackman Hall, Art Gallery of Ontario, \$6. Entry restricted to people 18-years-old and up.

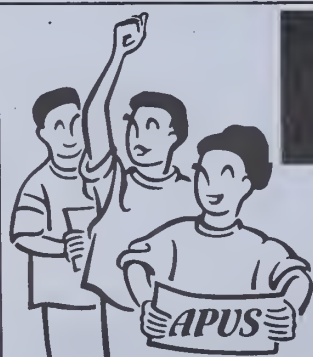


Awareness visits to classes and community groups through the Youth Mine Action Ambassador Program.

Please contact the Canadian Landmine Foundation at 416-365-9461 x 24 for details.

Elisabeth King is the Youth Mine Action Ambassador for the Toronto region. She visits schools, universities, community groups, and the media to raise awareness about landmines and to encourage action.

Submitted by UTM students Swapnil Rege and Mavis Mak. They volunteer with the Canadian Landmine Foundation, a charity that raises money in Canada for demining in Afghanistan, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Cambodia, Croatia, Mozambique, and Vietnam.



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# Creative Short Story

## I, Vampyr

BY PAUL DORSZ

Leaning against the lamppost, I looked up at her apartment window, the lace curtains flapping gently in the breeze. It was open so as to let in some air. The night was humid and warm, but I did not feel it. Standing beneath the streetlight, clad in black pants, black boots, a black shirt, and my black overcoat, I felt comfortable. And hungry.

I watched her walk past the window and caught a glimpse of her white tank top. She disappeared from my view and soon after the light in her room went out. I stood motionless for a little while longer, waiting for her to fall asleep.

The street was quiet; all the lights of the other apartments were out. A blissful night, really. So calm, so tranquil. Much like her, laying there in her bed, the covers in a pile on the floor. I stared at her for a moment, floating just outside of her window.

Ducking down and making my way inside, the sweet aroma of pot-pourri hit me like a gentle wave. She loved the smell, as did I. I

remembered clearly when she had told me that it helps her sleep after a long day of classes and work. I now

understood why: the scent was quite soothing and relaxing, and it almost made my head swim.

I made my way to the corner of her room, my heavy boots making no sounds as they hit the floor. The moonlight washed over her figure, her curves illuminated in the dark, lying on her back, her chest rising and sinking slowly. I heard her breathing, and mine fell into synch with hers.

I lost track of time as I gazed at her. Minutes may have passed, perhaps hours, but it was all a continuous blissful moment for me, to see her there, the embodiment of virtue and bliss. She stirred in her sleep. I often wondered what she dreamed of. Were her dreams like mine, tinted red as blood and so real that she woke up in a cold sweat, her heart pounding, her face flushed with fear and torment and pleasure?

She moaned and her eyes slowly opened. I remained motionless in the corner, a part of the darkness. She walked out of the room, oblivious to my presence. I heard a glass



clinking against metal, water running. I moved quickly and silently beside the door.

She walked back into the room, and I followed her to the bed. I stopped right next to her, still hid-

den in the shadows, and looked at her face, the moonlight bouncing off of it. In this moment, she was more awe-inspiring than ever, her perfectly chiseled features reflecting the glow of the stars as she looked out the window.

I stepped into the light, my hand slowly brushing against her hair. She turned quickly to me, and gasped. I felt her heart pounding; I could taste her fear. But she did not scream. I put my finger against her cherry-coloured lips, and leaned in close, my face inches away from hers.

Her breathing was now laboured and heavy, as was mine. I ran my hand down her arm, her skin covered in goose-bumps, around her back, and pulled her close to me.

She gave a slight whimper as I held her against me and moved her hair away from her neck.

I plunged my fangs into her supple neck, and felt her become weak. She was like a rag doll in my arms, her legs giving way. I held fast and continued to feed. She was taking large breaths, and with each one I felt her chest expand against mine. This was what I had come here for: to feel her, to taste her, to be this close to her. To see her laying in her infinite glory on her bed. To become one with her.

When I finished feeding, I took her in my arms and placed her on the bed. I lightly pressed my lips to hers and left through the window, taking one last glance at her before I leapt to the street below. I walked home, smiling, picturing her asleep on that warm autumn night.

### TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR FACULTY

Nominations from groups and individuals are invited for the **Teaching Excellence Award for Faculty** at UTM. Nominations from students are encouraged. All members of the teaching staff of the College, full- or part-time, are eligible to be nominated.

To nominate an outstanding **Faculty Member**, you can receive further information and guidelines by browsing <http://erin.utoronto.ca/faculty/awards> OR by contacting Cindy Ferencz Hammond via EMAIL: [cferencz@utm.utoronto.ca](mailto:cferencz@utm.utoronto.ca)

**Deadline: Friday, March 28, 2003**  
Help recognize teaching excellence at UTM!

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Nominations from groups and individuals are invited for the **Teaching Excellence Awards for Teaching Assistants** at UTM. Nominations from students are encouraged. Anyone who is currently a Teaching Assistant at UTM or who was a Teaching Assistant during the past academic year is eligible to be nominated for an award. Three awards are available - one for each of the three divisions (Humanities, Social Sciences, Sciences).

To nominate an outstanding **Teaching Assistant**, you can receive more information and guidelines by browsing [www.erin.utoronto.ca/faculty/awards](http://www.erin.utoronto.ca/faculty/awards) OR by contacting Cindy Ferencz Hammond via EMAIL: [cferencz@utm.utoronto.ca](mailto:cferencz@utm.utoronto.ca)

**Deadline: Friday, March 28, 2003**  
Help recognize teaching excellence at UTM!

## FOREBODEN

### THE TREES

BY KAIGHT REHNER

Our societied buildings of concrete and steel  
Abduct us from our earth mother,  
Our tree siblings  
Alien, in this world from which  
we've come

The trees, with their million eyes  
Watch us  
Cautious of our strange walk,  
Our bright clothes  
The smells of factories  
Embedded in our lungs  
(They release as we exhale)

We come in peace, we explain  
The trees don't speak English  
We've lost their language along  
the way  
Our busy lives of companies  
And bank accounts  
Invaluable slices of dead trees  
Murdered relations  
Is that why the trees tremble so?

They can smell the blood.



## EXPRESS YOURSELF!

**Write for the Features section!**

All creative writing accepted and encouraged, as well as profiles of people in the UTM community. Articles on a variety of topics also needed.

Send submissions to [medium@canada.com](mailto:medium@canada.com)  
or drop by the office Monday afternoons from 12-4 to talk to me.

Johanna Kristolaitis, Features Editor.



## U of T's new Student Housing Task Force

is inviting submissions from all interested members of the university community



The task force will review issues such as the place of student housing in the overall mission of the university, how student housing contributes to the quality of student experience, projected short-term and long-term demand for various types of student accommodation and selection criteria for allocating places in student housing.

Send submissions at the earliest opportunity to the attention of Carol Robb, Secretary to the Task Force on Student Housing, Room 221, Simcoe Hall  
(416) 978-6662 / [carol.robb@utoronto.ca](mailto:carol.robb@utoronto.ca)

If you are interested in the issue of student housing, please visit the Task Force on Student Housing website at <http://www.utoronto.ca/provost/tfsh/index.htm>

## ARTS &amp; ENTERTAINMENT

## Theatre Erindale questions family relationships

## THEATRE REVIEW

BY: ANDREA CIVICHINO

If you put 15 women in the same room at the same time—expect some feathers to be ruffled. *Les Belles-Sœurs* (written by Michel Tremblay and translated by John Van Burek and Bill Glassco) opens with Germaine Lauzon (Christine Dences) in Montreal, August, 1965, admiring the boxes stacked on her kitchen floor containing a million trading stamps that she wins through a lottery. The only catch to cashing in on her winnings is to paste all one million stamps into these special books. Once this process is completed, Germaine is eligible to trade in her stamps for household décor, appliances and accessories.

So what exactly was she thinking when she invited her 'closest' friends and some family members over for a stamp licking party? Germaine parades out into the kitchen where her anxious friends are awaiting to start stamping, wearing a pink bumble gum colour dress with matching shoes and accessories. In fact, all of the women are a little over dressed for pasting stamps. While they are pasting, they secretly wonder 'why should she win a million stamps and not me.'

Germaine doesn't exactly paste the



Who said old ladies are sweet and innocent? Not this one. photo/Jim Smagata

stamps. While the other women are working diligently, she can be seen either gossiping with the other women or fighting with her sisters Rose (Zoe Sweet) and Gabrielle (Melanie Kastner). Germaine's rebellious daughter Linda (April King) also manages to raise her mother's blood pressure, especially when her mother discovers Linda's fascination with Germaine's youngest sister, Pierrette (Zanya Mokry). Pierrette was shut out by her family because of her unconventional lifestyle. Strutting around the kitchen in a tight black skirt and fishnet stockings, Pierrette's character doesn't sit well with

the other women.

The stamp pasting party ends up turning into a wicked game of skeletons in the closet. Each woman gets a chance under the spotlight to tell the audience members her deep and darkest secrets that the other women don't know. As the women try to convince the others that they have a comfortable, admirable life, the audience members are the only ones who get an intimate personal account on each woman's true feelings. Des-Neiges Verrette (Johanna Kristolaitis) shares her feelings for a travelling salesman who visits her whenever he's in town and lets the audi-

ence know 'men have never paid attention to me...I've always been unattached.' Sophisticated and wealthy Lisette De Courval (Marsali Federico) asks the audience how the other women can possibly live a decent life because they are obviously not as refined as she. She compares their lifestyles to barn animals. Ultimately, the audience learns that each woman has something in common: "This stupid rotten life."

The stage and set design of the Lauzon's kitchen was very reminiscent of 1960's décor with checker tiles and lime green mismatched chairs and a stubby refrigerator. Little details such as the mini glass bottles of Coca Cola added to the authenticity of the set.

The costumes were spectacular – I'm sure if I were to raid my mother's crawl space, I'd find similar outfits. An interesting accessory that each woman wore was a crucifix around the neck. Interestingly, as each woman came across as being a devoted Catholic they were everything but a civilised group of chatty, fowl mouthed women. Between all 15 of them, they must have broken all Ten Commandments listed in the bible – in one evening. They beautifully conveyed that there is more to a person than their appearances.

The women worked well in unison during what I like to call their venting speech. They assembled around the stage chanting about their miserable lives searching for sympathy from the audi-

ence. "Break my back carrying parcels, my husband bitches, we call scream...I'm tired."

Olivine Dubuc's character, an old senile woman played by Tracey Pacheco, added additional humor to the performance. Although the only word she said throughout the entire play was 'Bingo' her character provided comic relief during tense moments as she whirled around the stage in her beaten up wheelchair growling at the other characters.

The play gives an in-depth look at the way good fortune can change the way you look at the world – and how others look at you. Just when you think you're friends and family are excited about your success – think again.

## About The Writer

Born in 1942, Michel Tremblay began winning prizes for his work at the tender age of 16. *Les Belles-Sœurs* was a milestone during his career for his all female cast. Since its English language premier in 1973 at the St. Lawrence Centre in Toronto, *Les Belles-Sœurs* has been produced world wide and translated into other languages and dialects. In France, it is rated one of the fifty most essential plays of all times.

*Les Belles-Sœurs* played at Theatre Erindale February 6-8, 11-15, 2003. This review is from the performance on February 13, 2003.

Join Theatre Erindale of 'Tis Pity She's A Whore March 6-8, 11-15. Box Office: 905-569-4369.



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# National Ballet's *Swan Lake* touches audiences of all ages

## BALLET REVIEW

BY: CINDY COSENTINO

The National Ballet of Canada has been thrilling ballet enthusiasts of all ages for over four decades and continues to impress with new and exciting line-ups each season. One of the all time favorites is *Swan Lake*.

Listening to the chatter before and after the performance I recognized the timelessness of this piece, as mothers reminisced with their young children about the first time they went to see it. Having this great opportunity to see *Swan Lake* was a treat itself, but for those of us in attendance at the performance, we had the chance to attend a question and answer period with the National's Artistic Director extraordinaire James Kudelka.

Kudelka's passion for ballet is evident from his innovative and intrinsic choreography, to his ability to synchronize each movement with the live music played by the symphony. I was left speechless throughout the performance, because not only were his principal dancers of an excellent caliber, but every dancer added something to the completeness of the perfor-

mance.

*Swan Lake* transports the audience into a tale of love and betrayal. Upon entering, the first character we encounter is the lively Fool, played by Piotr Stanczyk, who is then joined by the fiery Wench, played by Rebekah Rimsay. Siegfried and his knights have returned from hunting and are met by the Queen who commands Siegfried to marry.

Siegfried's dismay is clearly evident and his friend Benno attempts to divert him by dancing with the Fool and the Wench. Benno then sees a swan in flight and he and Siegfried set off hunting, where Siegfried meets the mysterious Rothbart. It is unclear if there was any prior relationship between the two, but Rothbart threatens and then tempts Siegfried with a swan Odette. Siegfried and Odette eventually fall in love and full of gaiety, Siegfried returns to the palace only to be met by a line-up of prospective brides.

Each girl professes their desire to become his bride through dance, but he stays true to Odette and refuses them all. That is all but one—Odette the black swan, presented by Rothbart. Siegfried betrays his beloved Odette, and even though she later forgives him, this proves to be too late, for Rothbart calls for a violent tempest, ending in tragedy for all involved.

The performance had many positives, despite some minor distractions (a dropped prop, and a missed petit-jete, and some off moments by the small group performances), however they are greatly offset with the excellent dance and choreography. Kudelka even manages to add some light-heartedness with the Fool.

The return of the wonderful Jennifer Fournier, who truly proves herself deserving of the demanding role of Odette/Odile, was a treat for all to see as she masterfully executed numerous sequences of consecutive fouettes, and possessed the ability to portray the grace and fragility of a swan. Siegfried was played by Patrick Lavoie, who made his debut in this role.

Lavoie is a young and budding star whose jitters seemed to drift off as the performance progressed. In addition to the pleasure of seeing these two, there is a cast full of talent who demonstrate this throughout the performance.

It's a shame this performance is not running longer but you can still catch it until March 2nd, at the Hummingbird Centre. Each performance has a select cast, allowing each performance to be a unique and exciting experience for patrons. *Editor's Note: This review is from the matinee performance on February 15.*

## ALBUM PICK OF THE WEEK

Talib Kweli: Quality  
Universal Music Canada/  
RawkusEntertainment

'Rush' starts off the album with energy, as Kweli comes out spitting rough rhymes followed by 'Get By', a joyous soul gospel type song with a touch of inspiration. It's primarily about the things and people that individuals rely on to get them through life, yet it's a feel good song that will make you happy to be alive. 'Shock Body' is a track with a futurist and retro feel with expressive vocals and a cool danceable beat. 'Gun Music' takes a journalistic approach to the prevalence of gun violence and mixes it with a rugged reggae-flavored track while 'Waitin for the DJ' is probably the most uplifting song on the entire album. 'Joy' is a song that explains how Kweli felt during the birth of his two children.

Kweli certainly has a way with words,

TALIB KWELI  
QUALITY



PARENTAL  
ADVISORY  
EXPLICIT CONTENT

and no track on this album is a letdown. Whether he's showing off his skills over an energetic beat or tapping into his poetic side, he's at the top of his game. Kweli's an ace lyricist, too. Part of what initially drew fans to him was his deep side, the politically aware, inquisitive, rebel-with-a-heart side. While that side of his personality is integrated into everything he does, it especially shines here on

some of the more serious, down-tempo tracks in the album's second half.

Especially effective are a trio of introspective songs: 'The Proud', 'Where Do We Go' and 'Stand to the Side'. The first is Kweli's topical song, dealing with his thoughts on America post-9/11. By saying exactly how he feels, Kweli approaches current events in a balanced yet forthright way.

He isn't afraid to call out the police for the way they've treated his people, and to express his reservations about the way the police have been celebrated in the wake of 9/11. 'Where Do We Go', featuring Res, and 'Stand to the Side', featuring Novel and Vinia Mojica, are two heartfelt, mellow, J. Dilla (aka Jay Dee)-produced tracks that explore the intersections between the personal and the political and the ways that our decisions affect everyone in a heartfelt, serious way.

- Robin McIntyre

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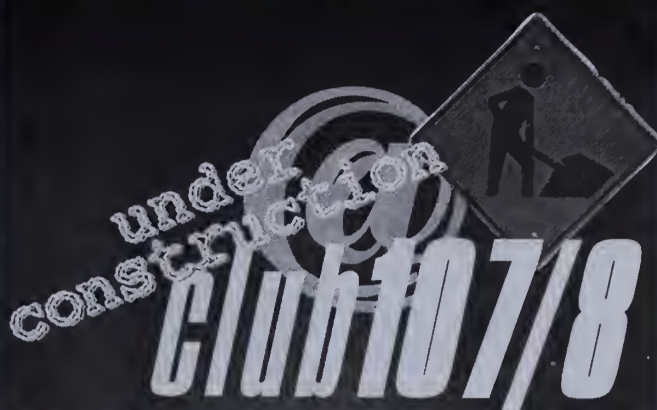
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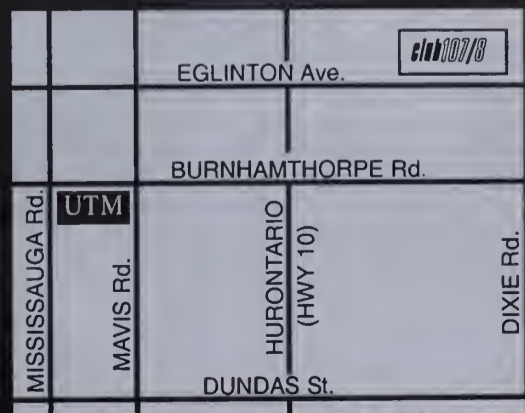
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# Affleck dares to take the challenge of a super hero

## MOVIE REVIEW

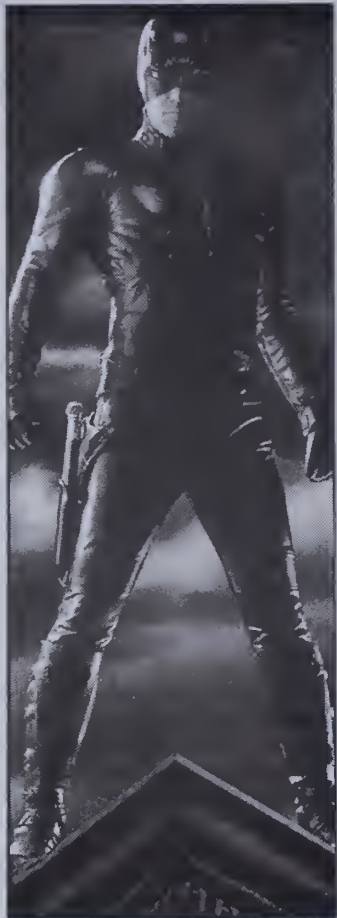
BY: JASON MARSH -  
LAROCHE

People say that justice is blind. If that's the case, then it gives Matt Murdock, a.k.a Daredevil, one leg up on the competition. The motion picture, based on the comic book created by Stan Lee and Bill Everett back in 1964, is an admirable attempt. Although it lacks in areas, on Mark Steven Johnson's part (as both director and scriptwriter) it fails to merge fantasy and reality.

Starring Ben Affleck, Jennifer Garner, Michael Clarke Duncan and Colin Farrell, *Daredevil* is the story of a blind lawyer who fights crime in the courtroom by day and on the streets by night. The script takes elements directly from both the original story and the revamped origin by Frank Miller in the early nineties and blends them to form a semi-believable world that permits characters like this to exist.

The film opens with Daredevil (Affleck) wounded from battle and collapsing in a cathedral, conveniently minded by a priest who knows his true identity as Matt Murdock. From there, the real story begins with a trip back to when he was the twelve-year-old son of a washed-up prize fighter named Jack "The Devil" Murdock (played by David Keith), who makes his son promise he'll study to become something better than his dad.

But when Matt discovers the rumors about his father working for a local criminal to be true, he runs away and is blinded by toxic chemicals that spray into his eyes via a domino effect chain of events. He later discovers that the chemicals



heightened his four other senses to the point where he has a kind of "radar sense" that guides him around objects and gives him an incredible sense of balance. His father is murdered for not throwing a fight, and there's a shift back to the present, where Matt is now a lawyer who has a double life as the urban legend known as "The Daredevil." Garner's character, Elektra Natchios, is the daughter of a minion of businessman Wilson Fisk (Duncan), better known on the streets as the "Kingpin of Crime." Elektra, also talented in the

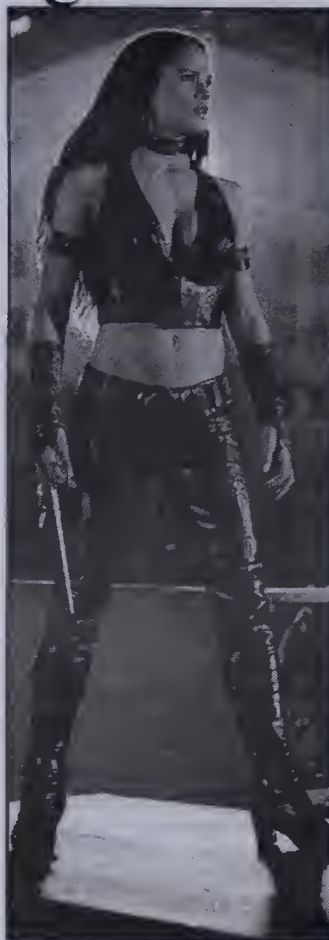
martial arts, is attracted to Matt after realizing he is more than just an average blind man. Farrell's character, Bullseye, is an assassin with incredible marksmanship; everything from a pencil to a paperclip is a deadly projectile in his hands.

Though strong in its opening, *Daredevil* lacks in some of the fights. Take the so-called "mating ritual" fight sequence in the park between Murdock and Elektra, for example. Garner defines herself as the more adept and believable fighter next to Affleck's amateur style. That fight, however, seemed to involve a lot more wires than it did choreography. It seemed as though Johnson was trying to duplicate the same romantic tension in *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* to deepen this physical and emotional relationship. In honesty, the chemistry between these two comes across to the audience better in the non-violent scenes, except for when Elektra fights Daredevil without realizing it's really Matt.

The overuse of wires is repeated in Daredevil's final battle with the Kingpin. They attempted to duplicate the same fat-looking-man-but really-massively-muscled-man contradiction from the comic and came up empty. Only through Duncan and Affleck's exchange is this pivotal scene salvaged. In spite of the aforementioned battles, however, and the cartoon-like CGI Daredevil for the more dangerous stunts, Johnson succeeds in setting this movie's heroes and villains apart from anything done before.

In terms of plot and acting ability, they were more than adequate, but not Oscar-worthy. Johnson added humanity to Matt Murdock by having him be made up of scars and bruises under his suit, taking painkillers and sleeping in a bath of Epsom salts.

By doing that, Johnson makes Matt less invulnerable. The scars tell



stories of mistakes while on the job over the years, thereby grounding him more with reality. His only trial scene took place in a confined courtroom, which enhanced the underdog aspect of the character. Jon Favreau, who plays Matt's partner in their firm and best friend, Foggy Nelson, is the perfect comedic foil to offer breaks from melodrama. The scenes in which he takes advantage of Matt's blindness and complains about not having high-paying – if they pay anything – clients are hilarious. The

priest, though not comedic, served to represent the religious part of Matt as a walking contradiction: A man dressing like a devil to do the will of the just. However, there were holes in the story, such as who took Matt in after his father was murdered? Where and when did he meet Foggy? And again, who schooled Matt in the art of fighting and weapons making? The scenes in which young Matt (played by Scott Terra) adapts to his new abilities is understandable. But where do the martial arts come in? You don't learn those things by yourself on the streets. In the revamped origin, Miller brought in a blind teacher named Stick who finds Matt after his accident and secretly instructs him in both understanding his gifts and how to fight. Though small facts, these were crucial to the plot.

The only hollow character was the man known only as Bullseye. Only Farrell's over-the-top performance saved this character from looking completely ridiculous. Finally, as for the Kingpin, this is Duncan's shining moment. After playing so many minor characters, he is given a role that is worthy of him physically and intellectually. As Kingpin, Duncan, through bodily presence and that deep voice, perfectly comes across as a foe worthy of respect.

All in all, *Daredevil* does indeed succeed in entertaining the audience in spite of its shortcomings. As this article is being written, a sequel is already in the works, so Johnson has another chance to fix what failed to work in this movie.

Though not as good as *Spider-Man* in terms of effects, save the great visual display of Murdock's radar sense, *Daredevil* succeeds in delivering characters with just as much depth and room to grow. The movie is worth going to see...if you are willing to "Take The Dare."

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## Movie fails to explain what's a guy thing?



## MOVIE REVIEW

BY: ANDREA CIVICHINO

It's a bachelor bash, so that means one final night of acting wild and obnoxious with the rest of your single buddies. Paul (Jason Lee), the man who's getting hitched, isn't the life of the party. Instead of dancing with the Tiki girls in Hawaiian grass skirts and guzzling obscene amounts of beer, Paul is very adamant about not partaking in any kind of activity that he will later have to explain to his future wife Karen (Selma Blair). Ironically, Paul wakes up the next morning and discovers a beautiful blond named Becky (Julia Stiles) sharing his bed with him. The worst is yet to happen—his future mother-in-law calls to let him know that Karen is on her way over to his apartment. Paul's worst nightmare begins...

Becky leaves her bikini underwear in Paul's apartment. Paul finds them right before Karen arrives and for a lack of a brilliant hiding place, Paul hides them in the toilet tank where he thinks Karen will

never find it. Karen eventually finds the underwear and Paul suddenly has some bullshitting to do. This is just the beginning of predictable events that eventually follow. For instance, Becky's psychotic boyfriend has her followed and gets a hold of pictures of her with Paul. The photos fall into the hands of Paul's next door neighbour's kid. The next door neighbor who happens to be a pastor is not impressed with the obscene photos that his son has found. At Paul's wedding, the pastor who is supposed to marry Paul and Karen is sick... so guess who comes in as a replacement?

The direction of the film is too obvious and there aren't any twists that will throw you off either. While the only comic relief is a marijuana scene, the only sparks in this flick is the chemistry brewing between Lee and Stiles. It's actually very convincing considering Paul's character is a complete dork, and let's face it, Lee is not the best looking actor in Hollywood these days.

And what exactly is a guy thing? I still don't know and I honestly don't think that guys know either. Perhaps it's something that can explain the unexplainable.

## SPORTS

## UTM skates into first place with dramatic win

BY MIKE PORTO

The first game in the Monday night tri-campus hockey double header was a battle for first place. It saw the 3-1-1 UTM Eagles take on the red-hot St. George B team, who were on a four-game winning streak, and had not lost since their opening game of the season.

Both teams were missing key players as UTM's Adam Daly was suspended and ex-varsity player Rob Frankovich was unavailable for the contest. St. George B was without the league's top point getter Brendan Ritchie and ex-OHL player Ryan Rasmussen.

The game started with UTM carrying the play and creating many good scoring opportunities. Their best chance came when Bill Maloney had two great chances from in close, but was unable to beat St. George's Eric Scott.

The St. George team started slow and could not find their legs. Even when UTM's Mike Ross was sent to the box for hooking, UTM still managed to outplay the St. George squad. Finally, with 5:48 left in the opening period UTM's Bruce Worthington intercepted a pass and wired a slap shot along the ice to give the team from Mississauga a well deserved 1-0 lead.

Just over two minutes later UTM defenseman Ryan Charland scored a beautiful goal while his team was shorthanded. Charland picked up the puck at centre and deked out both St. George defenders before making a great move on Scott for the score and a lead. UTM continued to dominate the game and went ahead 3-0 with 12:8 seconds left in the first period. Adam Stewart tapped in a beautiful pass from the corner by line mate Bill Maloney.

The second period started with UTM's Chris Murphy having a clear cut breakaway, but his move didn't fool Scott and the score remained 3-0. The save gave some life to the rest of the St. George team and both teams traded some good scoring opportunities.

With two minutes left in the second period, St. George had a flurry of scoring chances on the power play, but couldn't beat UTM goaltender Mike O'Halloran. Both teams went to the dressing room with UTM in total control of the game with a 3-0 lead.

St. George coaches Ben Barrett and Ben Frank must have said something to stir up their troops because St. George came out for the third looking like a totally different hockey team. The period started with a lot of energy from both teams, and resulted in many good scoring chances and some crunching body checks.

St. George began to carry the play and was rewarded at the 10:19 mark. Forward Pat Ferraiuolo scored on a broken play that just trickled past UTM's O'Halloran. After the goal, UTM's Chris Murphy received a roughing penalty and St. George had a power play with the score 3-1.

On the power play, St. George hit two posts and had many chances before Josh Nobrega scored on a rebound to make the score 3-2. The intensity of the game picked up and there were many chances at both ends of the rink.

With 2:15 left in the game and UTM still having the 1 goal lead, UTM's Adam Stewart received a

two minute penalty for high sticking. Just 14 seconds later St. George's Josh Nobrega made a nice pass to set-up Matt Humphries and he made no mistake. The game was tied 3-3.

tre and deked out two St. George players before scoring on the backhand. The score was Charland's second highlight reel goal of the game and it came with just 4.1 seconds to go in the game.



UTM forward Mike Angeletti ties up his man on this defensive zone face-off (above). The team took a 3-0 lead into the final period only to see it evaporate. UTM defenseman Ryan Charland scored his second breakaway goal of the game with only 4.1 seconds remaining to give UTM the 4-3 win and was mobbed by his team mates (right).

However, with 10 seconds left in the game, UTM defenseman Ryan

Charland picked the puck up at centre and deked out two St. George players before scoring on the backhand. The score was Charland's second highlight reel goal of the game and it came with just 4.1 seconds to go in the game.



the game 4-3. St. George played a great third period, but UTM deserved the win, and with it they took over sole possession of first place heading into reading week.

Elsewhere in Tri-Campus action,

UTSC defeated St. George A 6-3 led by the three-point effort from Marcus Macri, who had two goals and an assist. Macri now leads the Tri-Campus league with seven goals.

## MEN'S TRI-CAMPUS ICE HOCKEY STANDINGS

TEAM	GP	W	L	T	DF	GF	PTS
UTM	6	4	1	1	0	21	9
St. George B	6	4	2	0	0	25	8
UTSC	6	2	3	1	0	19	5
St. George A	6	1	5	0	0	18	2

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Campaigning Ends:	Fri Mar 14 @ 6 pm
Election Begins:	Wed Mar 12 @ 6:00 am
Election Ends:	Fri Mar 14 @ 6 pm

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# Playoff excitement set to begin as teams strive for title

BY "THE COMMISH"  
JON LEE

"The Holy Grail. The big one. For all the marbles. The pot of gold at the end of the rainbow." These are just some of the old clichés used to describe a sports greatest achievement: a championship. For UTM, the Men's Intramural Ball Hockey championships are some of the most sought after. Four teams in division one and six in division two are left to try and claim the title for their own. And the Commish is here to give you the info you need on the match ups, and the picks on who will win.

## DIVISION ONE SEMIFINALS

Waterboyz vs. (4) Wildcats

I wonder if the Boyz have had time to look at how badly they played last time they met the Wildcats and how close they could have lost that tie. Paul Costa will need to step up his game in net for the Boyz as his team must play up to their level against a hungry Wildcats

squad. Clearly the offensive power is on the Boyz side with "Tweedledee" Ray Mukaddam and "Tweedledum" Javis Gillingham leading the way. They finished second (25 points) and fifth (21) in league scoring respectively.

The Cats have a very hot duo of their own with Mike Wach and Ravi Bhardwaj finishing fourth (22 points) and seventh (19) in league scoring respectively. Cats' goaltender Martin Warych must continue his solid play in net for the Cats to hold up against the offensive barrage the Boyz should bring. An upset is not out of the question, but the Boyz do have more weapons at their disposal to win.

Pick: Waterboyz

(2) Div.1 Rookies vs. (3) Fury

This is an unusual year for Fury. At times shorthanded or not playing at 100%, they finished in their lowest spot in 6 years. This does not mean they are not a threat for the cup. Fury's captain Mike "The Ace" Acedo has reclaimed the scoring title he lost to Gillingham last year by



Fury forward Mike Sudeyko goes around a defender. Fury looks to repeat as champions but will face a challenge in their first round match up against the Div. 1 Rookies.

scoring 15 points in his last game, and having 34 points overall to finish his great second half performance.

Sophomore Mike Sudeyko (6th place with 20 points) and veteran Bruce Worthington (8th with 18) have also stepped up their game at the right time.

Div. 1 Rookies have played well but will be shorthanded for the play-

offs. They will have to rely on all star performers Pardeep Nagra (10th place with 16 points) to lead the way, while Andrew Rabba will have to outplay Fury goalie Neil Meneses.

Fury is a playoff team and will be looking for a 4th straight title.

Pick: Fury

## DIVISION TWO EASTERN QUARTER-FINALS

(Bye Week: (1) Milkmen)

(2 East) Red Army vs. (3 West) Jets

The Jets make their second consecutive appearance in the playoffs and hope to go farther this year. They face a tough new addition to the league in the Red Army. The new Red Army squad will look to their captain Mark "Summer of Sam" Samoszewski and rookie sensation Ian Mitchell to lead the way to victory.

The Jets will be lead by the likes

of Dave Kuszka, Captain James Sporic and Helder Borges. Both teams are tough, but the Jets have come back in big games this year, and this is the biggest one to date for them.

Pick: Jets

## DIVISION TWO WESTERN QUARTER-FINALS

(Bye Week: (1) Whalers)

(2 West) Sawmill Valley Trailblazers vs. (3 East) HoLoHo

This is HoLoHo's return to the league to try and reclaim a title they won 2 years ago, but then they went into hiatus. The Trailblazers make their first playoff appearance and hope to make some noise.

HoLoHo has an emerging all star in "The Human Highlight Reel" Jordan Latorre to get them the goals, but the edge is held in net for HoLoHo as they got "Stone Cold" Kevin Spence to make sure the pucks stay out. The Trailblazers have their own star in Cory "Gretzky" Johnson and have improved in net with Chris Pedro. But the edge in net is hard to ignore unless the Trailblazers hit the net early and often.

Pick: HoLoHo

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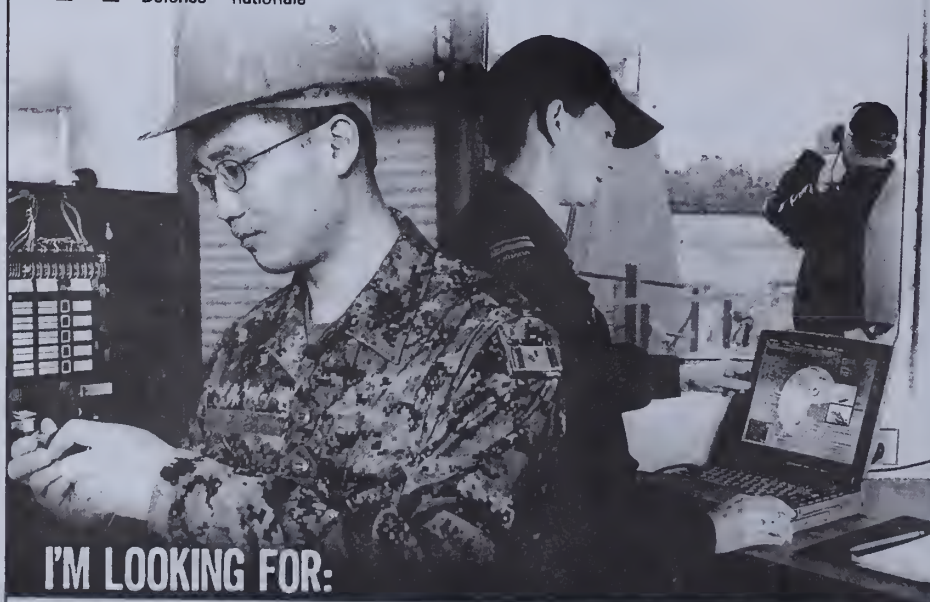
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## UTM rally for win

BY JESSICA SELF

On Tuesday February 11th the men's division I volleyball team from Meds traveled to UTM to play our guys for a second time this season. Coming into this game, Meds was ranked first in the league and UTM was fighting to secure a spot in the playoffs.

UTM started off their first set a little slow, letting Meds take a 4-1 lead. Some aggressive hits by Hakan Knoff helped UTM fight their way back to 6-6. Unfortunately the guys lost some of their speed and forfeited the set 25-20.

In the second set, UTM charged

onto the court and drove Meds back on their heels. Thanks to some devastating block-breaking hits by Colin Doyle, made possible by great sets from Jon Chew, UTM was able to gain a 16-7 lead and hold it. Although Meds made an attempt to come back, UTM was able to hold on, winning the set 25-20.

Finally, in the third and final set, UTM came out strong once again. With some smashing kills by Jeremy Jackson and Chris Ogoneh, UTM was able to triumph once again defeating Meds 15-12.

The UTM men's team plays again here at home on February 25th against Victoria. Go Eagles!



UTM ready themselves for a return from their opponents. The team rallied from behind to win and tie for second place in the standings. The team's record is now 3-2.

## Bond Girls take top spot

BY GINA RAJACK

The first half of the Women's Ball Hockey season came to an end with an exciting game between the Free Agents and the Bond Girls. Both teams had numerous shots in the first period, but the goalies would not let any by them. The Free Agents struck first with an early second period goal by Claire Pinsonnault, assisted by Silvia Baretto. The Bond Girls answered back with a slew of goals by Amanda Moore (3), Cheryl Penfold (2), and Gina Rajack (1). The Free Agents gave the Bond Girls a little scare when they scored three unanswered goals, both by Baretto. Unfortu-

nately the Agents ran out time to muster up any more offence. The Bond Girls won by the score of 6-3, and now have sole possession of first place.

### TOP 5 SCORERS - WOMEN'S BALL HOCKEY LEAGUE

NAME	G	A
Cheryl Penfold Bond Girls	7	3
Gina Rajack Bond Girls	5	5
Amanda Moore Bond Girls	4	2
Silvia Baretto Free Agents	4	1
Chris Mayers Free Agents	2	0

# UTM injected by lethal poison

BY MIGUEL CO

As another game comes, UTM suffers another loss. Without their top players, they fought hard and with pride never stopping the fight to win. UTM had a bad start during the game falling back early 10-5. As the game went, they figured out a plan switching defensive and offensive strategy. Then they

went to a 10-4 run getting the lead by the end of the first half 18-14.

UTM was determined to win the game with strong performances by Genghis and Jordan Latorre. During the second half the UTM defense crumbled into pieces allowing Pharmacy to score at will down low. Without some key players in the paint, it was just about time, when UTM would lose their ener-

gy and allowing simple baskets to get in. The coaches were stunned and called time outs.

They tried to convince the team that all they needed was to hustle and play simple basketball, but with no luck. In the final minutes of the game UTM tried to make a run to win the game but it was a little too late. UTM fell short losing to Pharmacy 34-25.



UTM tries to defend through a pick and roll in action on February 10. The team came up short against Pharmacy losing 34-25. The team record is even at 2-2 and will play Sinai Slam on February 24 at the Athletic Centre. The team hopes to rattle off a few wins and make some noise in the playoffs.

## UTM lock up home court advantage

BY STEVE MANCHUR

UTM's men's division one basketball team travelled way out east to play off against rivals Scarborough College. Having defeated Scarborough by a whopping 34 points in the first game, UTM knew coming into the game that Scarborough would be looking to exact revenge.

The game for the most part in the first half was sloppy, as UTM never seemed to

get into a rhythm, and Scarborough was turning the ball over. However, once UTM settled down they were able to execute their offense, and their 2-3 zone defense, the first time they used such a defense all year, they quickly gained control of the game, and led 38-25 at half time.

The start of the second half saw UTM build their lead up to 17 in the first five minutes of the half, and it looked like they were going to run away with the game. However, over the stretch of nine minutes,

UTM seemingly forgot some basketball basics in putting pressure, and added with a lack of finish on the offensive end resulted in the game being tied at 63-63 with six minutes left. However once tied UTM dug deep and played awesome basketball, never once letting Scarborough take the lead on them, and pulled away with the victory. Foul shooting was pivotal down the stretch as Dwayne Grant and Sacha Francisco combined to go 7 for 8 from the foul line in the last five minutes of the

## It's lonely at the top

BY STACEY O'NEILL

The UTM women's tri-campus volleyball team headed out to Scarborough on February 13th to play their long time rivals. To UTM's disappointment Scarborough played an uneventful game. UTM had a hard time demonstrating their championship skills, as UTSC struggled to return the ball. UTM beat UTSC with little effort in three straight sets 25-17, 25-16, 25-8.

Mel Lui continues to show her amazing talent with her timely setting and smart plays. Lui has been the one of the driving forces behind UTM's success. Lui's setting has allowed the powerful UTM hitters to contribute to over 120 kills over the entire season. UTM leads the league in kills. There would be several more to be added to their record but the brainless score keepers neglected to keep track.

During the game Nina Dernowska allowed few balls to touch the ground with her great defensive play. This left-handed power hitter has had 23 kills this season and continues to demonstrate her amazing talent both defensively and as a strong hitter and server.

Barb Sanders' power hitting forced UTSC to work hard to return her incredible hits. Linesman Stacey O'Neill (UTM's other setter who is making great recovery from her dislocated and frac-

tured bird finger) continuously snapped her flag down as many of Sanders' spikes hit the ground. A veteran player, Sanders has contributed the most kills (40) in the entire league. She puts the whole UTSC team to shame as they have only 44 kills in total.

Power hitter Jessica Self has had a great season and proved her amazing talent against UTSC with some amazing hitting and some key digs. Self had UTSC's hairy #3 player taking notes with her quick movement on the court and powerful kills. Self's third in team kills with 20.

Offside player Chelsey Davey had a wicked game and contributed to UTM's win with some amazing spikes! Powerful server Davey had some great digs that allowed UTM to set up for some unstoppable kills.

Robyn Thomas was enormous at the net. This middle player denied many of UTSC's hits with her tough blocks. Thomas has contributed to UTM's wins not only with her strength at the net but also with her loud grunts.

Rookie Sarah Boudreau gave UTSC a hard time with her phenomenal serves. Boudreau dominated the net and frustrated many of the UTSC players with her strong blocks. Boudreau also contributed to the game with her smart tips and strong hits.

game.

While the person working the table at Scarborough kept personal stats for their players, they inexplicably did not for UTM, so the top scorer is not known. However, all those who attended played significant roles in the victory. Francisco, Grant, and Henry Rogers led from an offensive point of view. Anand Patel and

Andy Chen were monsters on the boards, and Rohit Sethi, Matt Centofante and Eric Liao supplied strong guard play.

With the victory, UTM has secured home court advantage throughout the playoffs. They finish off their regular season schedule with a home date against the very tough Medicine team, whom they beat earlier in the season 66-60.



## University of Toronto at Mississauga

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## Winter Group Fitness Schedule 2003

Fitness is March – Come on out and get active!

Monday, March 3 – Friday, April 11

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
12:10pm – 1:00pm	Boot Camp Miranda Macdonald Teaching Studio	Step & Sculpt Brenda Mazur Teaching Studio (women only)	Pilates Jodi Livingston Gym	Kickbox Challenge Tracy Lennertz Teaching Studio	Pilates Jodi Livingston Teaching Studio
1:10pm – 2:00pm	Cycle Circuit Aubrey Iwaniw Fitness Centre		Power Yoga Carin Lowerson Teaching Studio	Cycle Circuit Aubrey Iwaniw Fitness Centre	Pilates Jodi Livingston Teaching Studio
4:10pm – 5:00pm			Cycle Fit Michelle Genua Fit Stop		
5:10pm – 6:00pm	On The Ball Johanna Quinn Teaching Studio	20/20/20 Mariette Xerri Teaching Studio	Kickbox Challenge Johanna Quinn Teaching Studio		
6:10pm – 7:00pm	Body Blast Tracy Lennertz Teaching Studio		Cycle Circuit Aubrey Iwaniw Fitness Centre		

The schedule for the exam period will be posted by April 9.

## Do you know someone who should be recognized for their involvement in athletics?

Nomination packages are available in the athletic office or the UTMAC office.

Coaches, commissioners and athletes are encouraged to pick up packages to nominate deserving candidates for various awards.

### These awards include:

- Athlete of the Year
- Fair Play Award
- Coaches and Referees of the Year
- Gold Award and Leadership

Nomination packages are due March 7 to the Centre for Physical Education, Room 1114 South Building.

Visit our website for details  
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UTMAC presents this year's  
**Athletic Banquet, April 4, 2003 at Le Dome in Oakville**

Come to UTMAC for details

# UTM win final game

BY JUDY CHIN

Alas, the UTM women's lacrosse interfaculty season has come to an end. With a record of 1-3-1, they missed the playoffs by one point. Considering this year was a transition year, UTM stands proud of their achievements. With only three veterans on the team, the roster of ten was filled with rookie players, who played with natural talent and spirit to fill the whole Athletic Centre.

The offensive load was carried by Gina Rajack, Gemma Cassidy, Aubrey Iwaniw, Sheryl Penfold, Amanda Moore, and Chandra Gilbert. Great goaltending by rookie Jennifer Chapman was displayed as she toughed out

the hard shots with defenders Judy Chin, Melissa Lui and Stephanie. Coach Chandra Gilbert was amazed at the talent UTM women attain and their ability to compete against the varsity women players. Nonetheless, UTM crushed OISE 9-3, who finished last in the season.

Although UTM did not win the championship this year as we did last season, we learned that victory is not just about winning. It is how you build a team and continue to rise that makes a team victorious. On that note, UTM's Lady Eagles lacrosse team will come back stronger than ever next year with more determination to succeed after this rebuilding season.

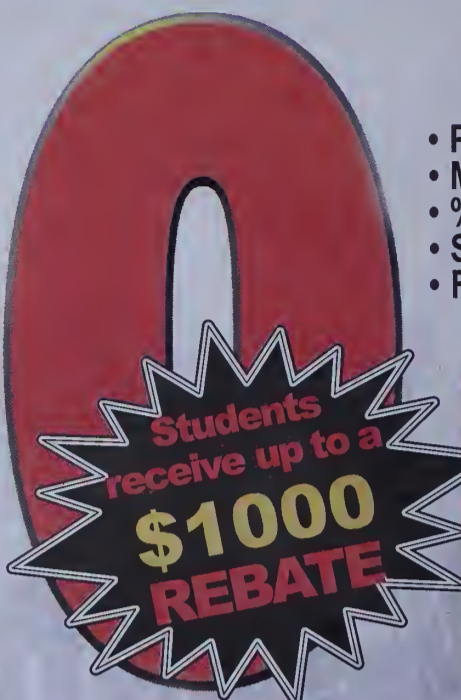


The Lady Eagles went through a tough year with many new faces. The team looks poised to succeed next season. photos/Judy Chin

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